



MIRABAI

SHE GAVE HER HEART TO KRISHNA

Vol 535





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Script
Kamala Chandrakant

Illustrations
Yusuf Lien

Editor
Anant Pai

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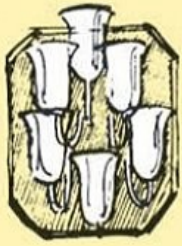
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mirabai



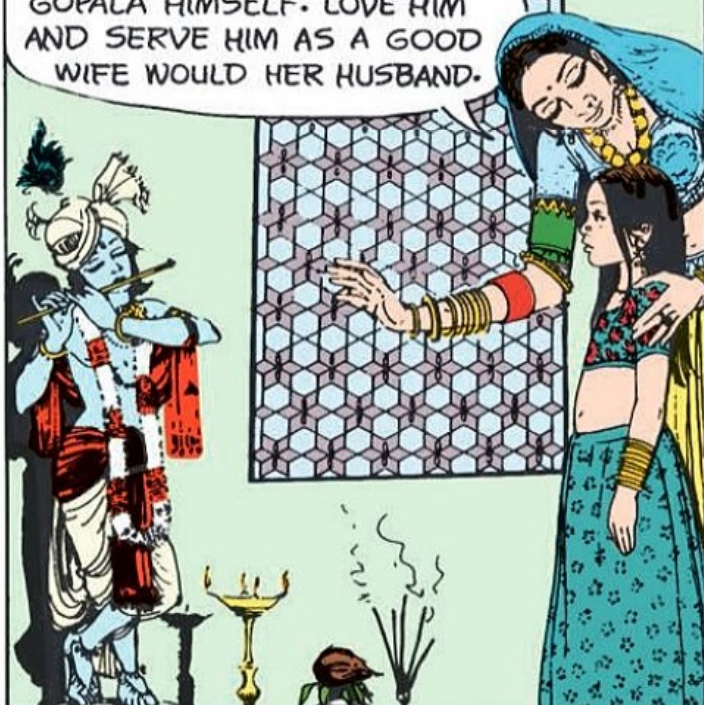
RANA RATANSINGH, WHO RULED OVER KURKHI IN RAJASTHAN, WAS A GOOD RULER AND WAS LOVED BY HIS PEOPLE. HE HAD A BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER NAMED **MIRA**.

ONE DAY WHEN MIRA WAS ABOUT FIVE YEARS OLD, A WEDDING PROCESSION PASSED BY THE PALACE.



HER MOTHER LED HER TO AN IMAGE OF LORD KRISHNA, KEPT IN A CORNER OF THE ROOM. MIRA LOVED THIS IMAGE.

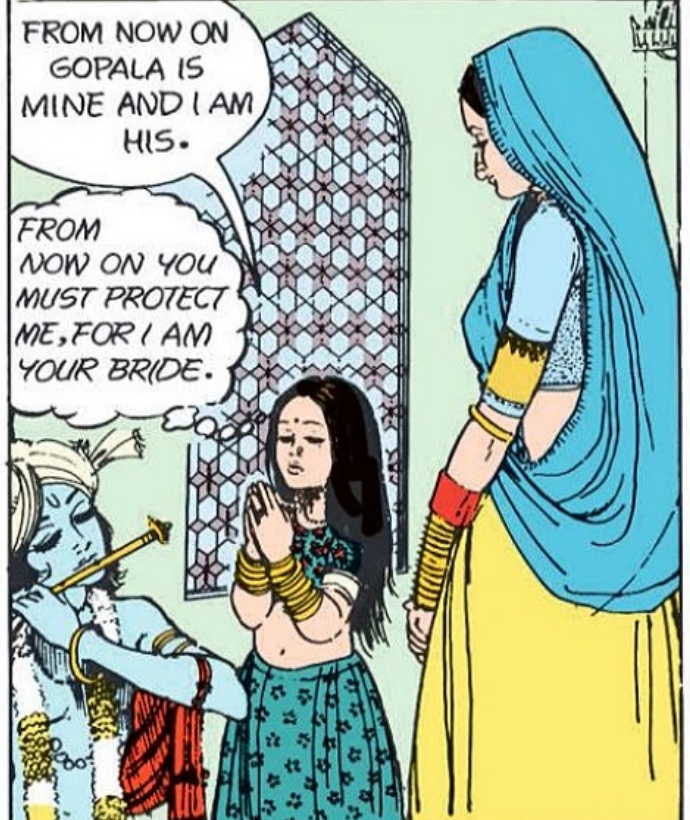
THERE IS YOUR HUSBAND! GOPALA HIMSELF. LOVE HIM AND SERVE HIM AS A GOOD WIFE WOULD HER HUSBAND.



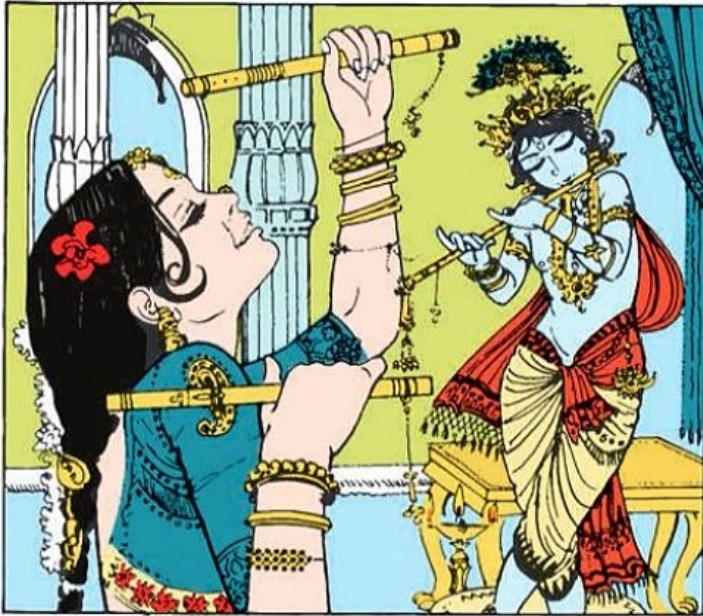
MIRA TOOK HER MOTHER SERIOUSLY.

FROM NOW ON GOPALA IS MINE AND I AM HIS.

FROM NOW ON YOU MUST PROTECT ME, FOR I AM YOUR BRIDE.



AND SHE LEFT OFF ALL OTHER PLAY.



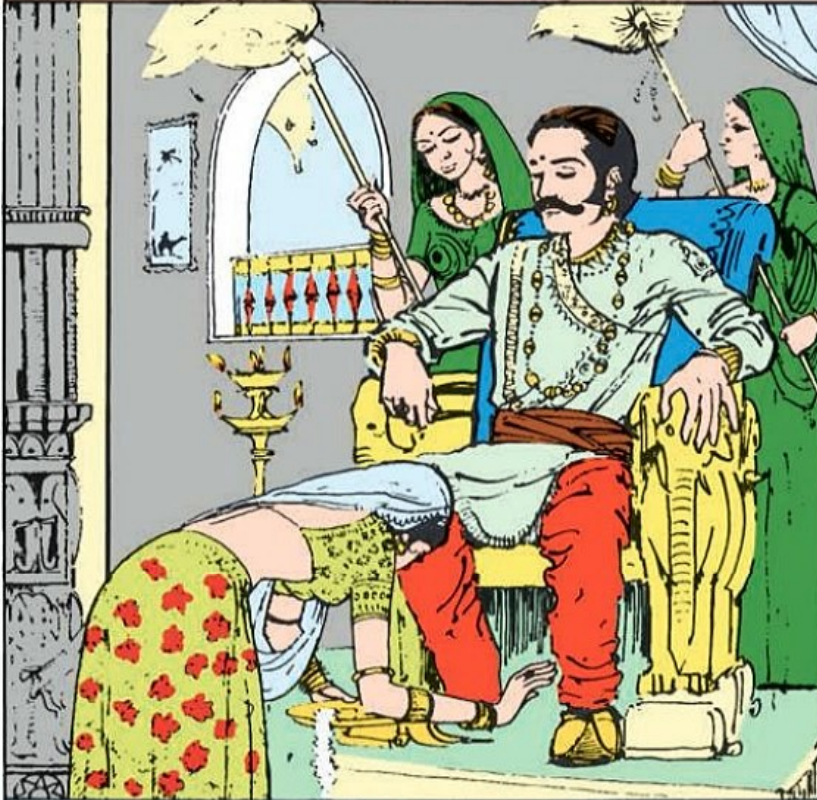
SO THE YEARS PASSED AND MIRA WAS STEADFAST IN HER LOVE OF HER DIVINE HUSBAND.

ONE DAY A BRIDAL PROCESSION ARRIVED AND MIRA WAS MARRIED TO PRINCE BHOJRAJ OF CHITTOR WHO WAS KNOWN FOR HIS VALOUR AND HIS DEEP HATRED OF THE MUGHALS -

INDEED I AM FORTUNATE!
MY PRINCESS IS THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL GIRL I HAVE
EVER SEEN.



MIRA WAS AN IDEAL HINDU WIFE...



... AND WAS LOVED BY HER HUSBAND.

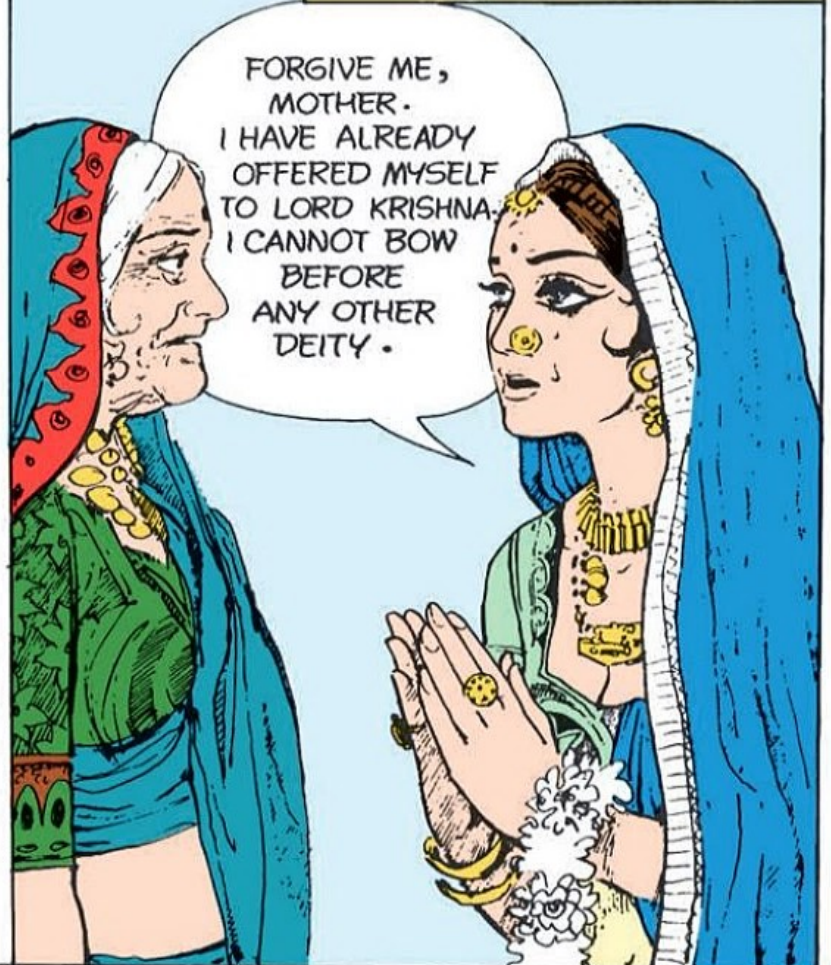
BUT AS SOON AS HER HOUSEHOLD DUTIES WERE OVER, MIRA WOULD TURN TO HER DIVINE HUSBAND—HER GOPALA— WHOM SHE HAD BROUGHT WITH HER.



HER MOTHER-IN-LAW DID NOT APPROVE OF THIS.



MIRA WAS ADAMANT.



BHOJRAJ'S SISTER UDA ALSO TRIED
HER HAND BUT IN VAIN.



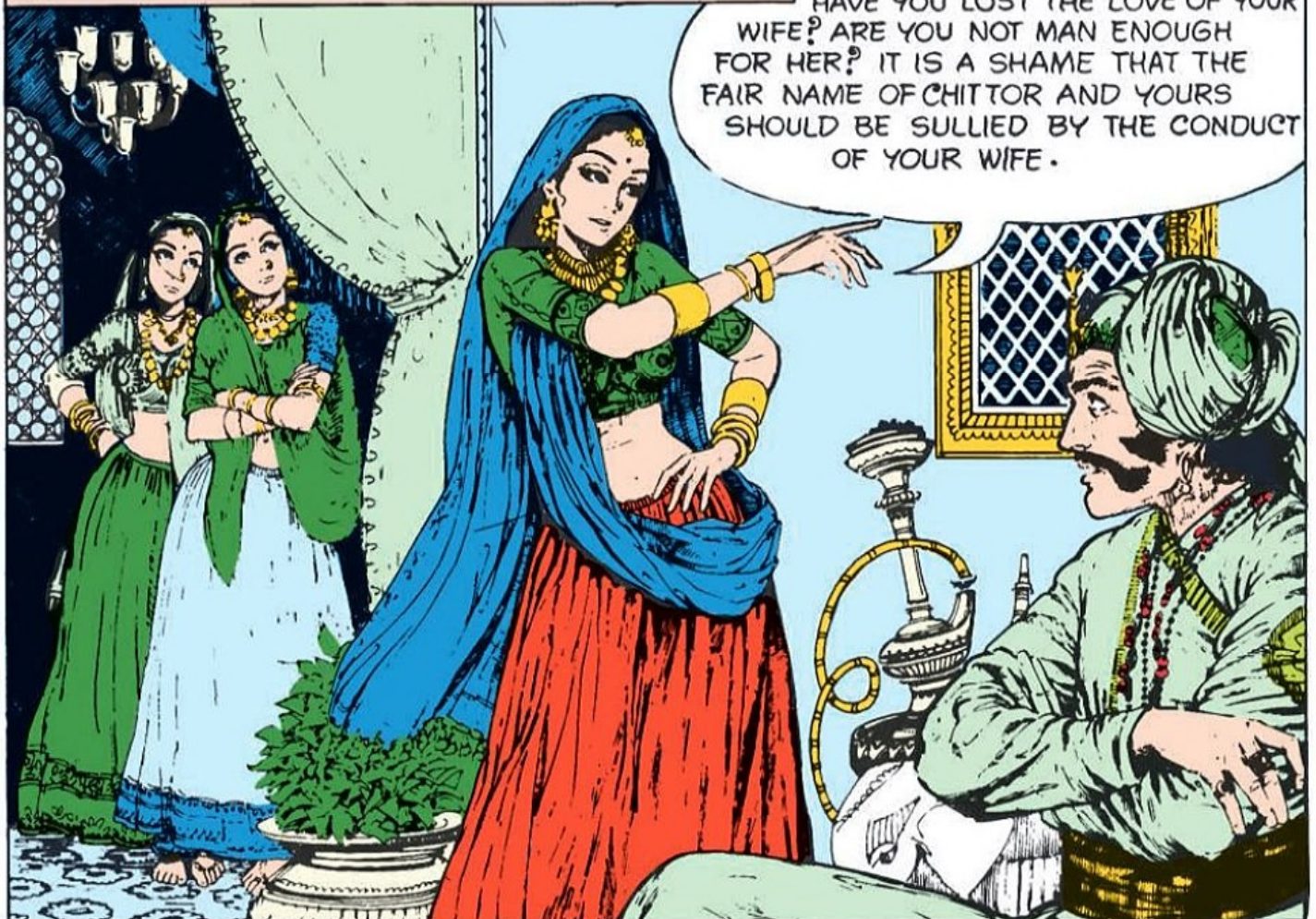
FULL OF ANGER, SHE DECIDED
TO TAKE REVENGE.

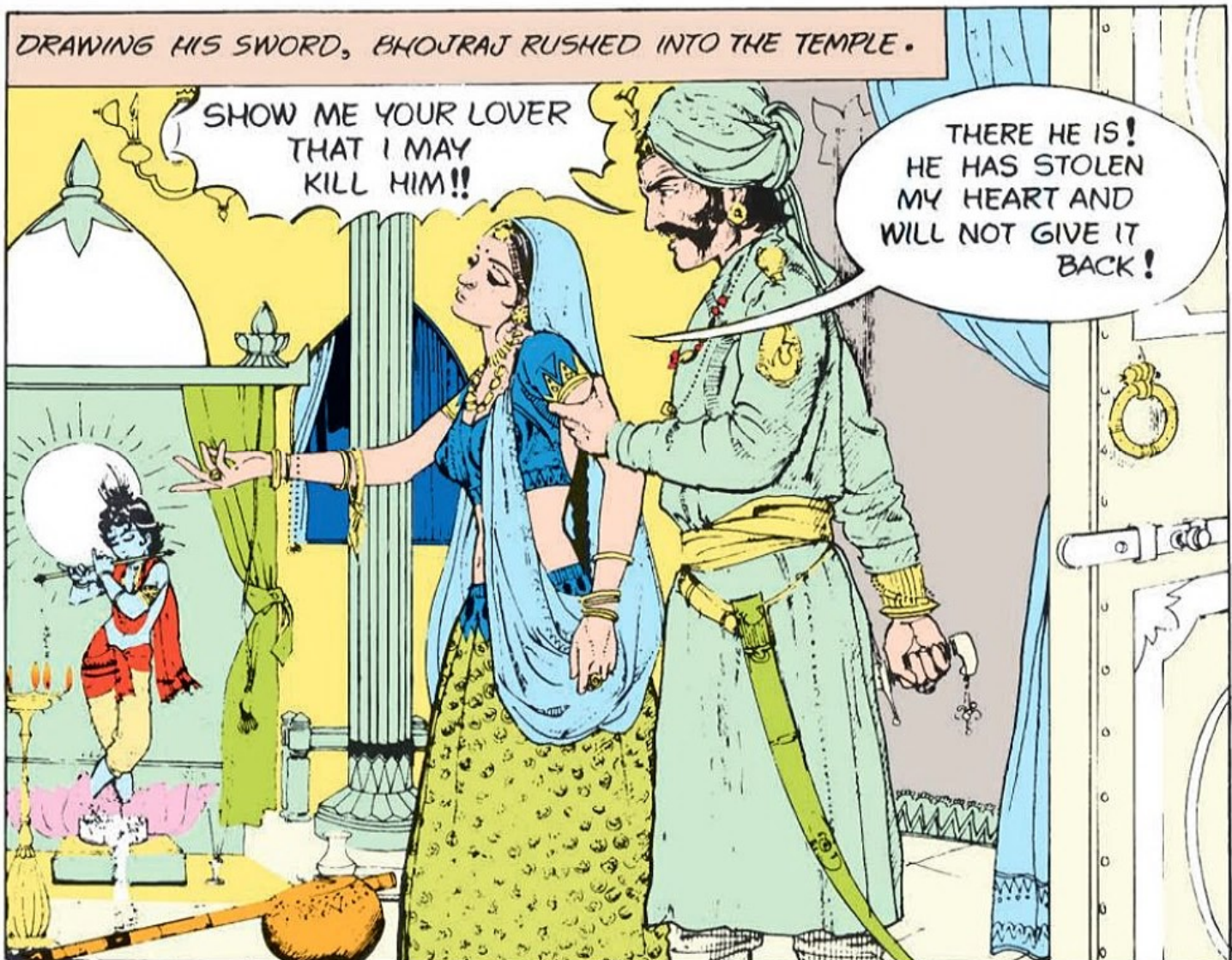
MIRA GOES EVERY
EVENING TO THE TEMPLE.
I WILL TELL MY BROTHER
SHE HAS A LOVER!

A
CLEVER
IDEA.



UDA AND HER COMPANIONS WENT TO BHOJRAJ.





KING BHOJRAJ, CONVINCED THAT HIS WIFE WAS INSANE, DECIDED TO HUMOUR HER. HE BUILT A TEMPLE FOR HER WHERE SHE COULD WORSHIP HER STONE LOVER TO HER HEART'S CONTENT! SOON DEVOTEES FLOCKED AROUND HER AND SHE OFTEN SANG AND DANCED HERSELF INTO ECSTASIES OVER HER LORD.



THE STORY OF MIRA'S DEVOTION TO LORD KRISHNA BY SONG, DANCE AND DISCOURSES SPREAD FAR AND WIDE. IT REACHED THE EARS OF THE MUGHAL EMPEROR AKBAR AND HIS COURT MUSICIAN, TANSEN.

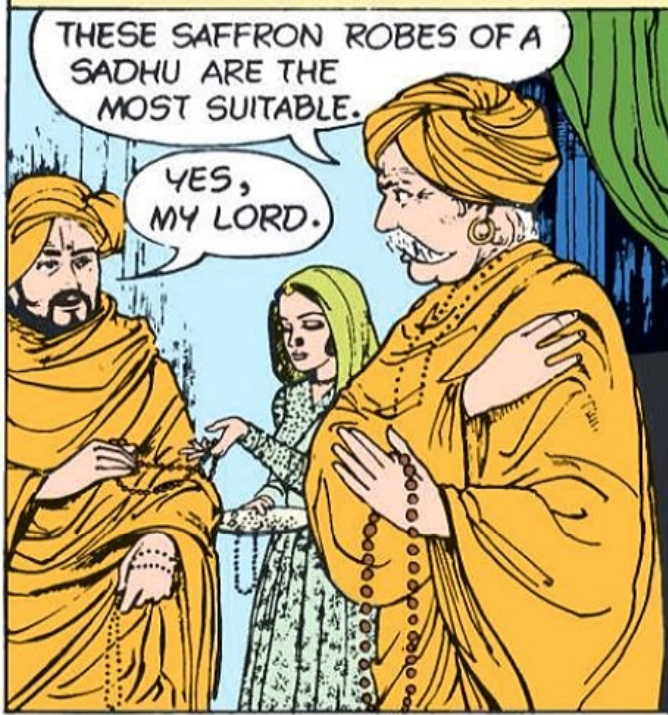


KNOWING THAT THE RAIPUTS HATED THE MUGHALS, THEY DECIDED TO GO DISGUISED AS HINDUS.

THESE SAFFRON ROBES OF A SADHU ARE THE MOST SUITABLE.

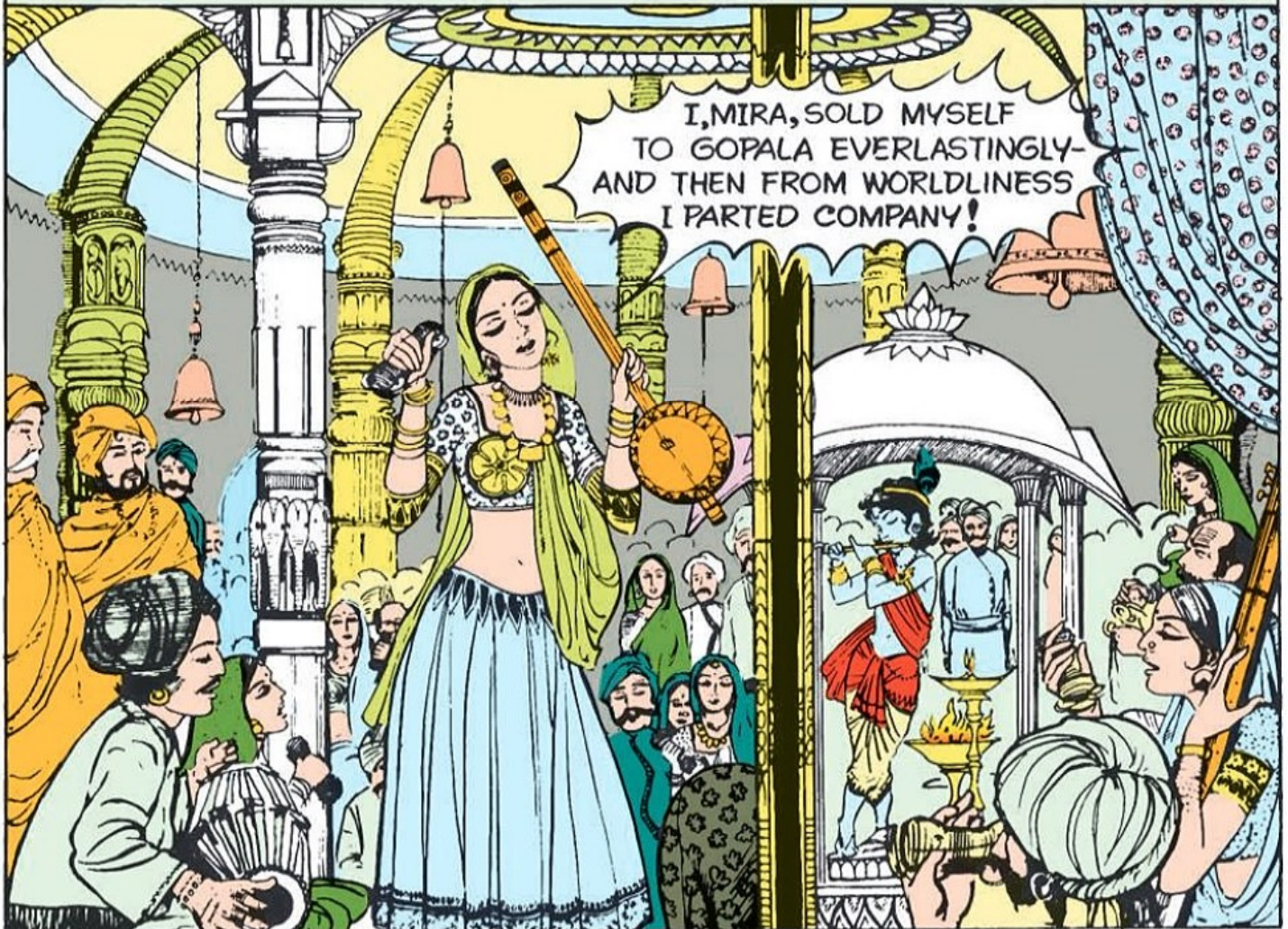
YES, MY LORD.

AT LAST THEY REACHED THE TEMPLE WHERE MIRA SAT BEFORE HER LORD.

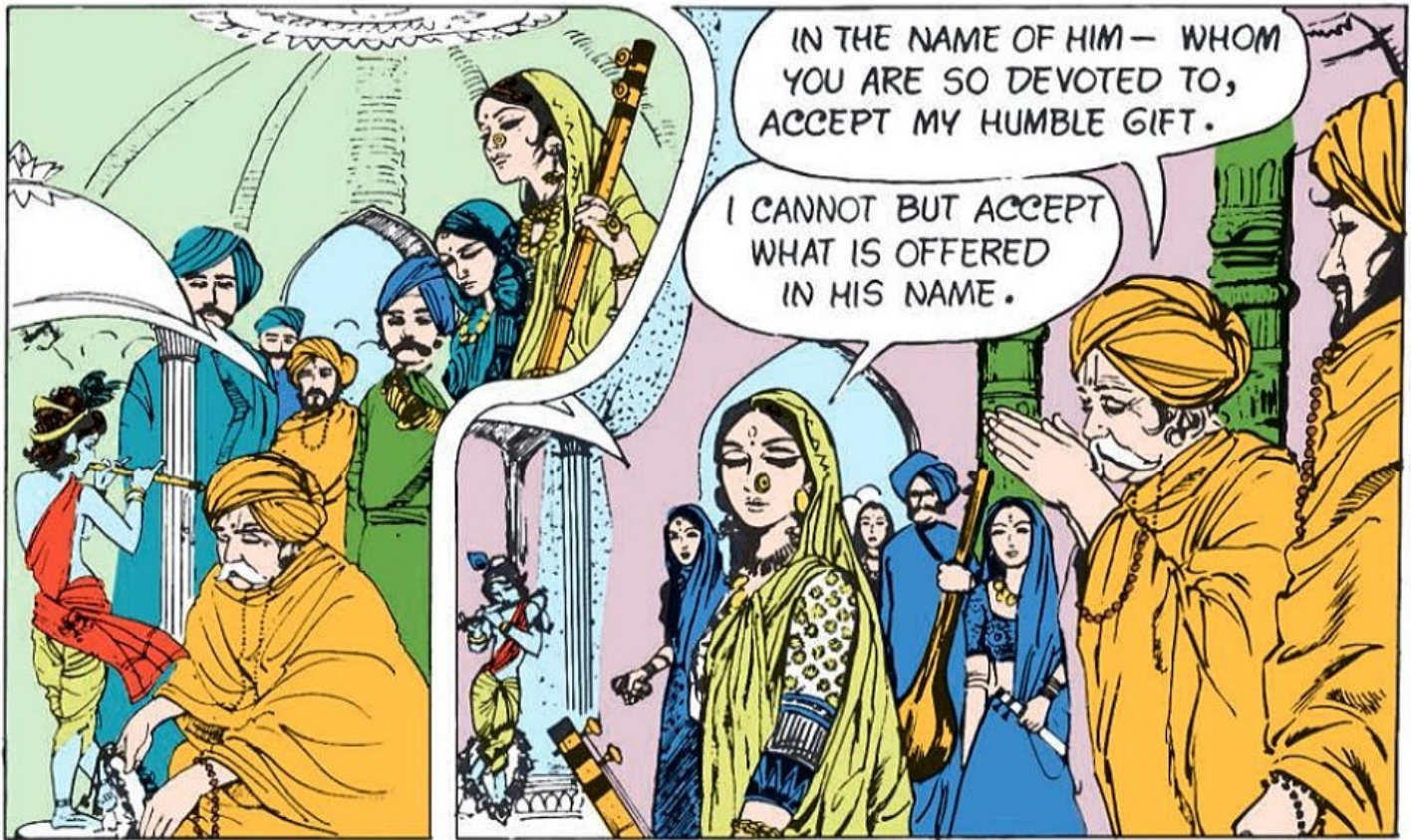


AS SOON AS THE DEVOTEES STARTED POURING IN, SHE BEGAN HER SINGING. SOME OF THEM JOINED HER, OTHERS LISTENED...

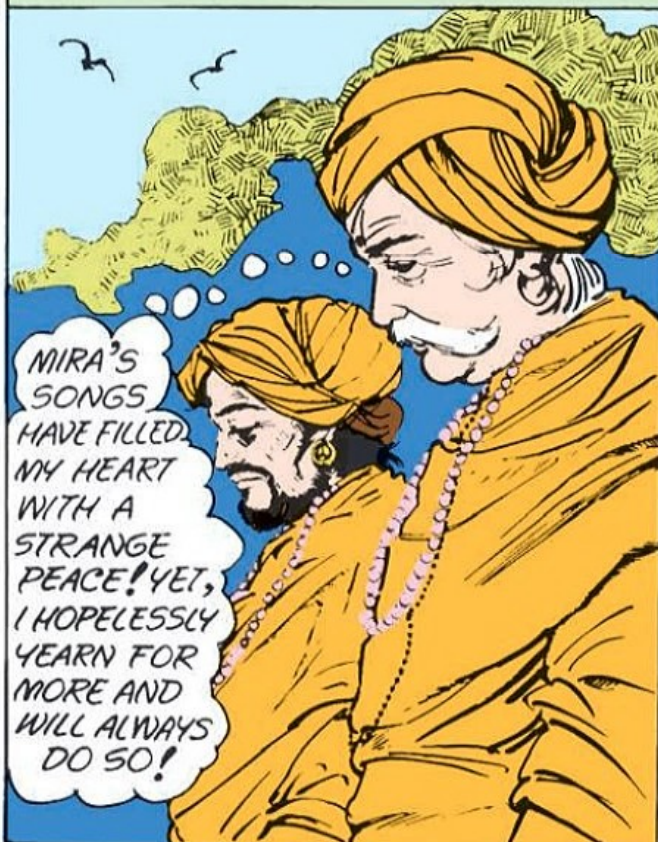
I, MIRA, SOLD MYSELF TO GOPALA EVERLASTINGLY- AND THEN FROM WORLDLINESS I PARTED COMPANY!



AT THE END OF THE DAY'S PRAYERS, AKBAR AND TANSEN WERE IN A TRANCE. AKBAR APPROACHED MIRA, TOUCHED HER FEET AND PLACED A NECKLACE AT THE FEET OF THE IMAGE.



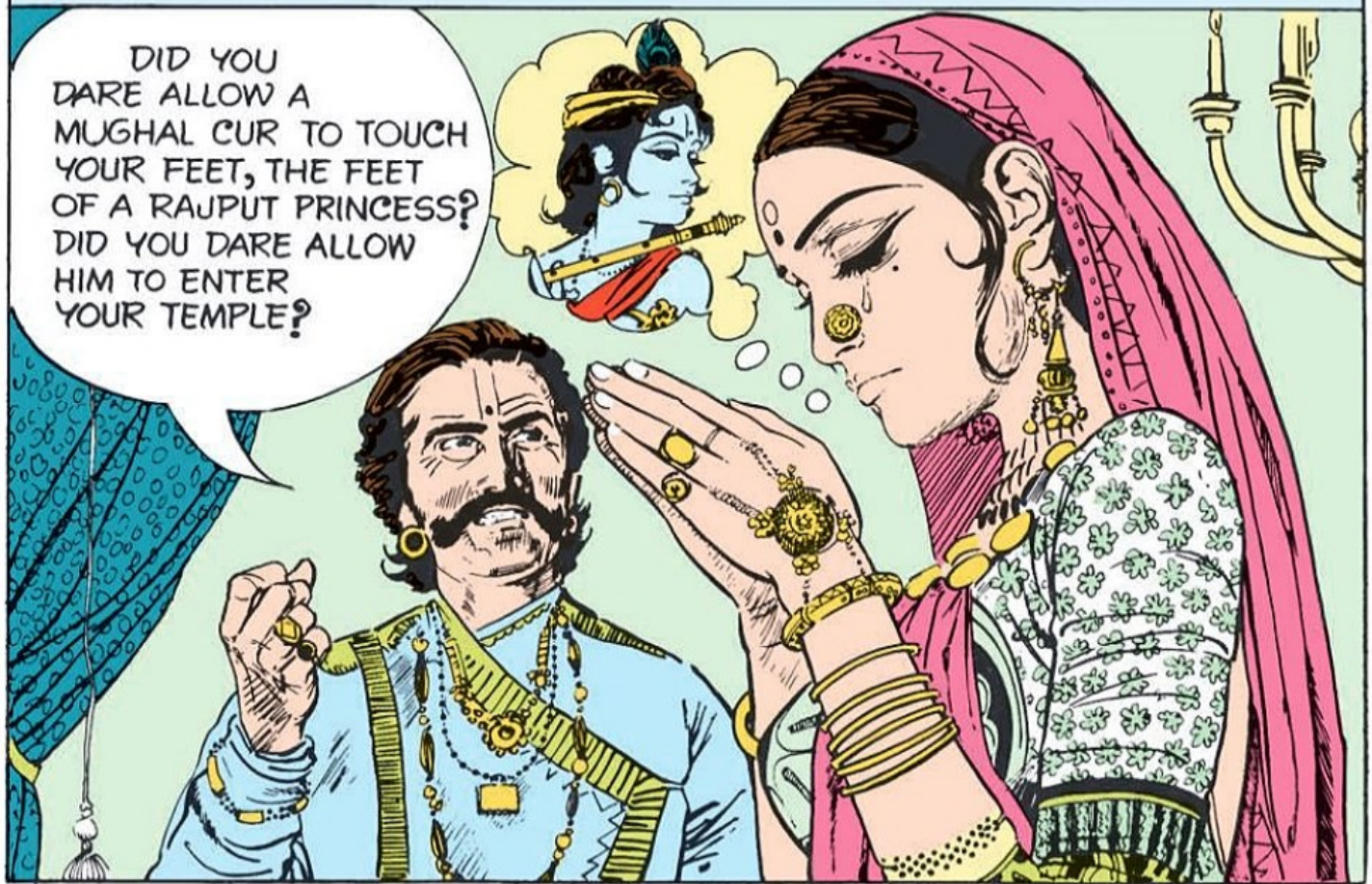
AND THE EMPEROR LEFT THE PLACE WITH A HEAVY HEART.



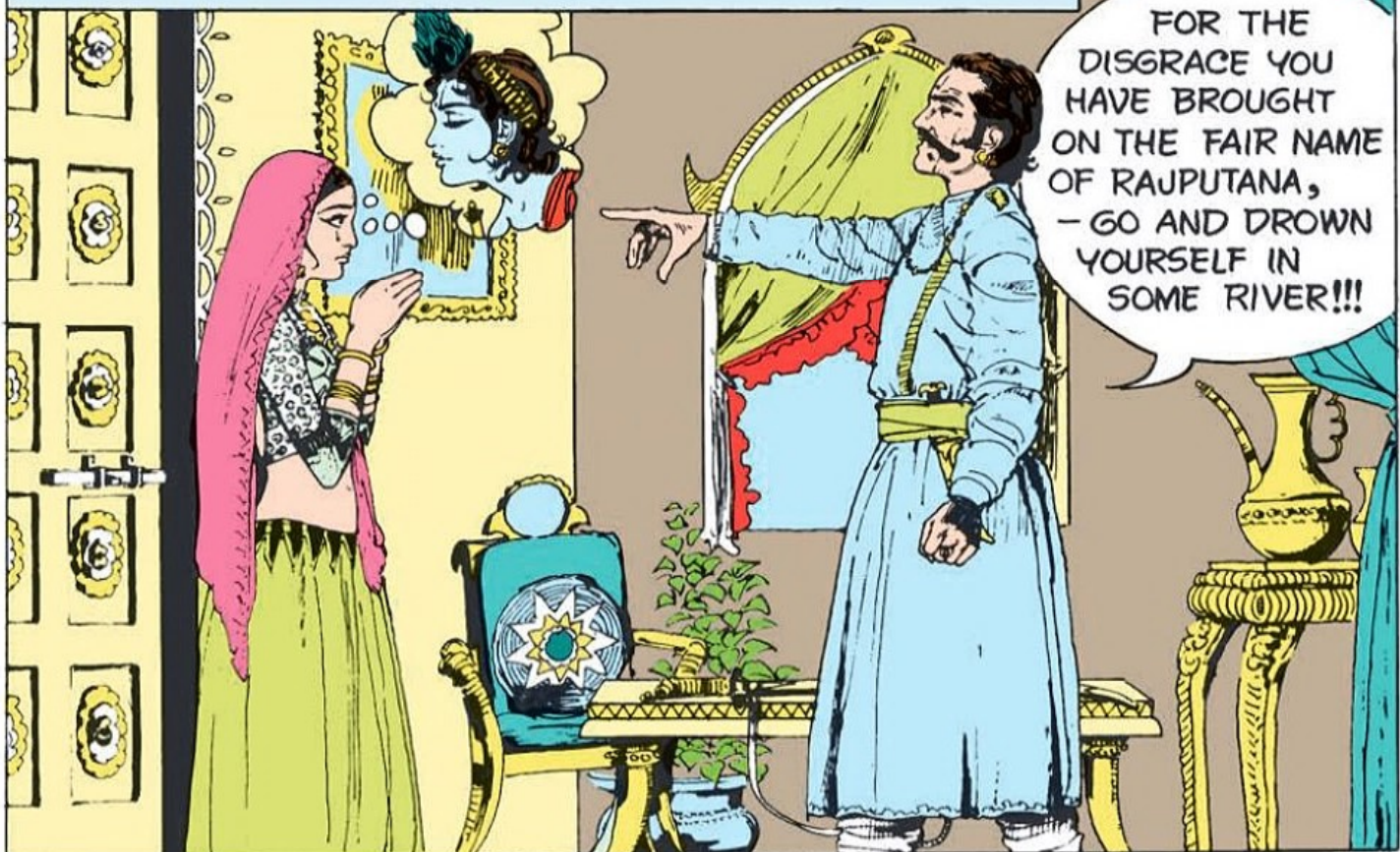
NEWS LEAKED OUT THAT THE MUGHAL EMPEROR AND HIS MUSICIAN HAD VISITED MIRA.



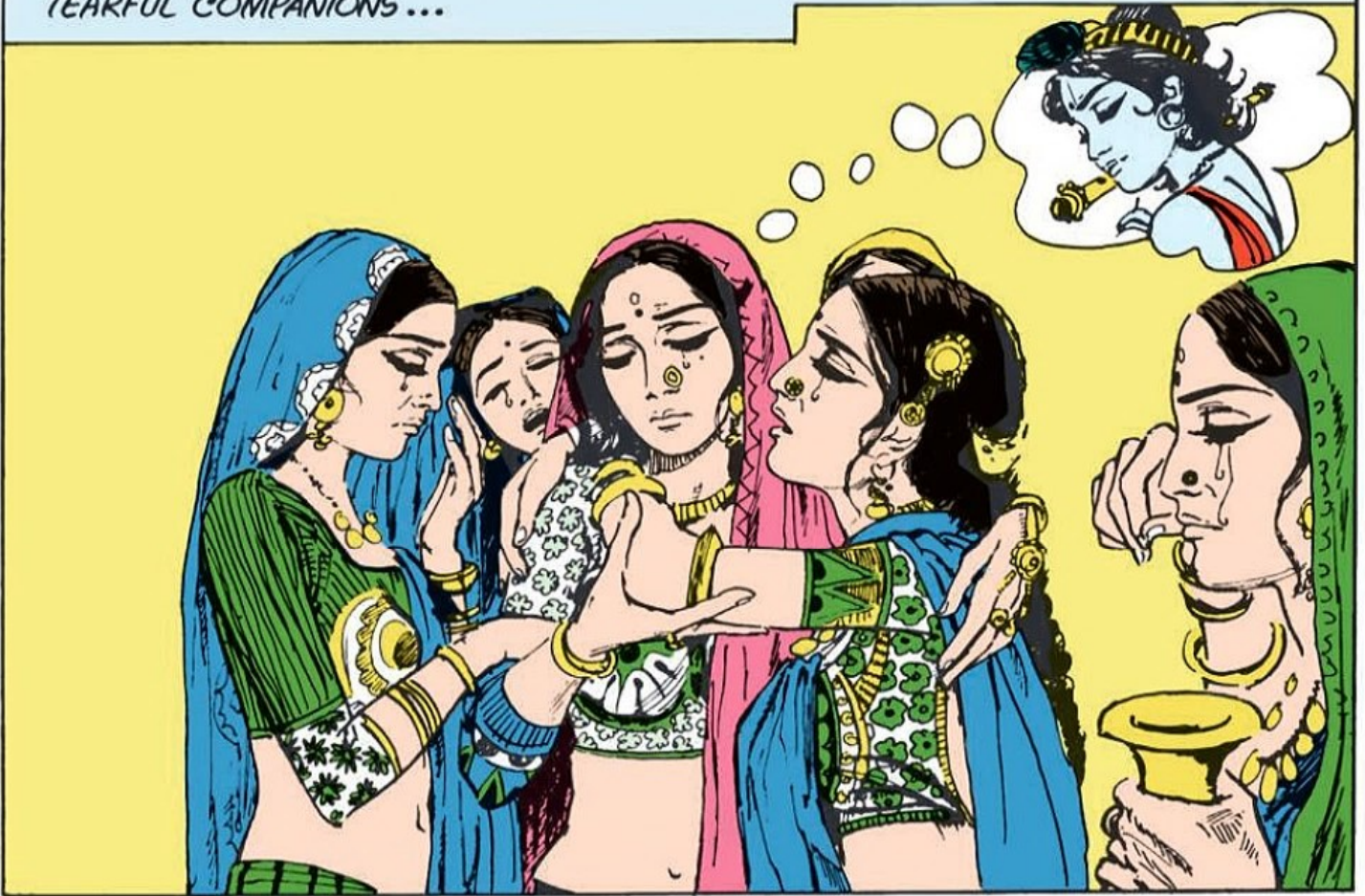
WHEN RANA BHOURAJ HEARD OF IT, HE SEETHED WITH ANGER. SANE OR INSANE HIS WIFE HAD DEGRADED HERSELF. HE SUMMONED HER.



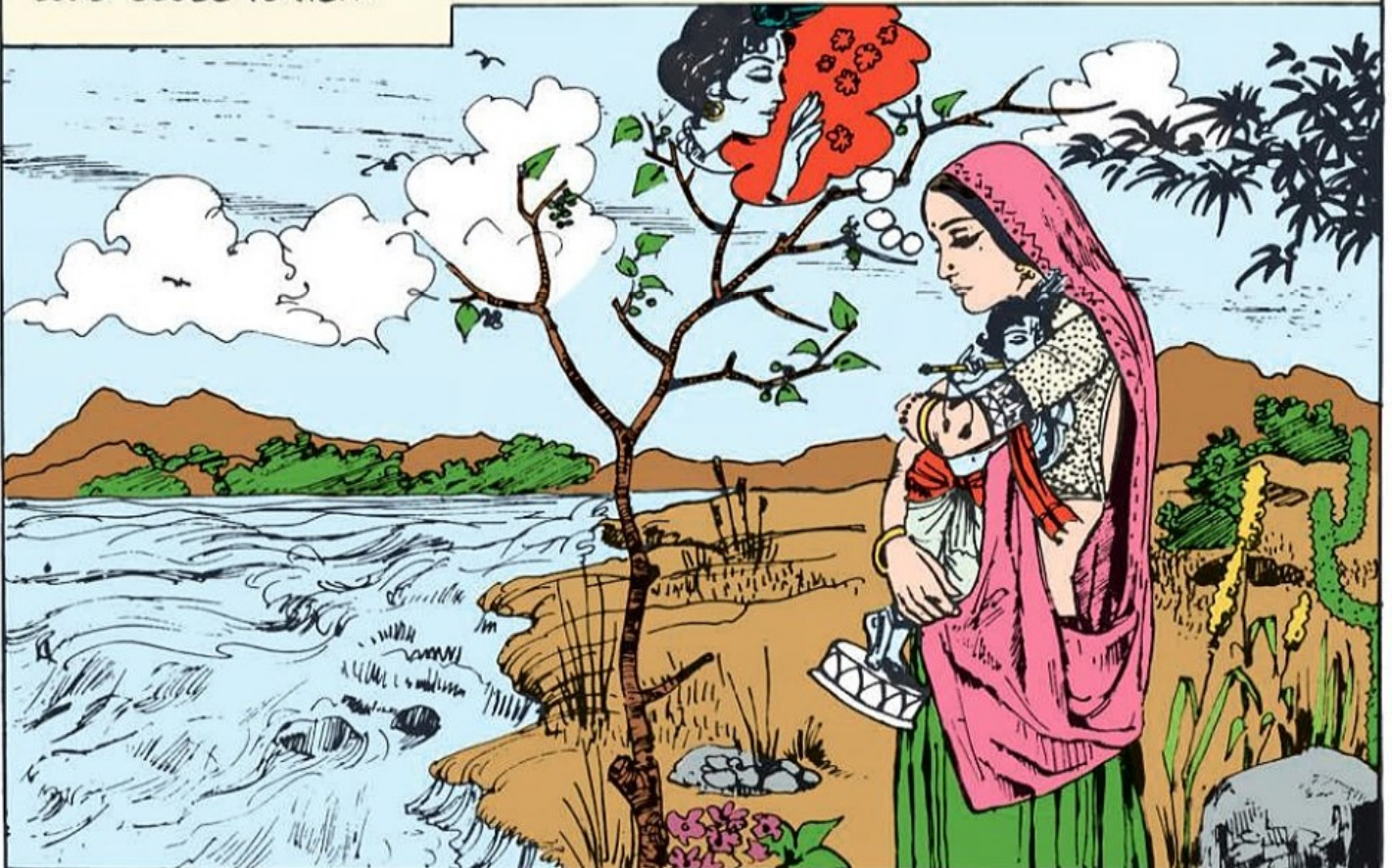
MIRA'S SERENE SILENCE ONLY MADE HIM MORE ANGRY.



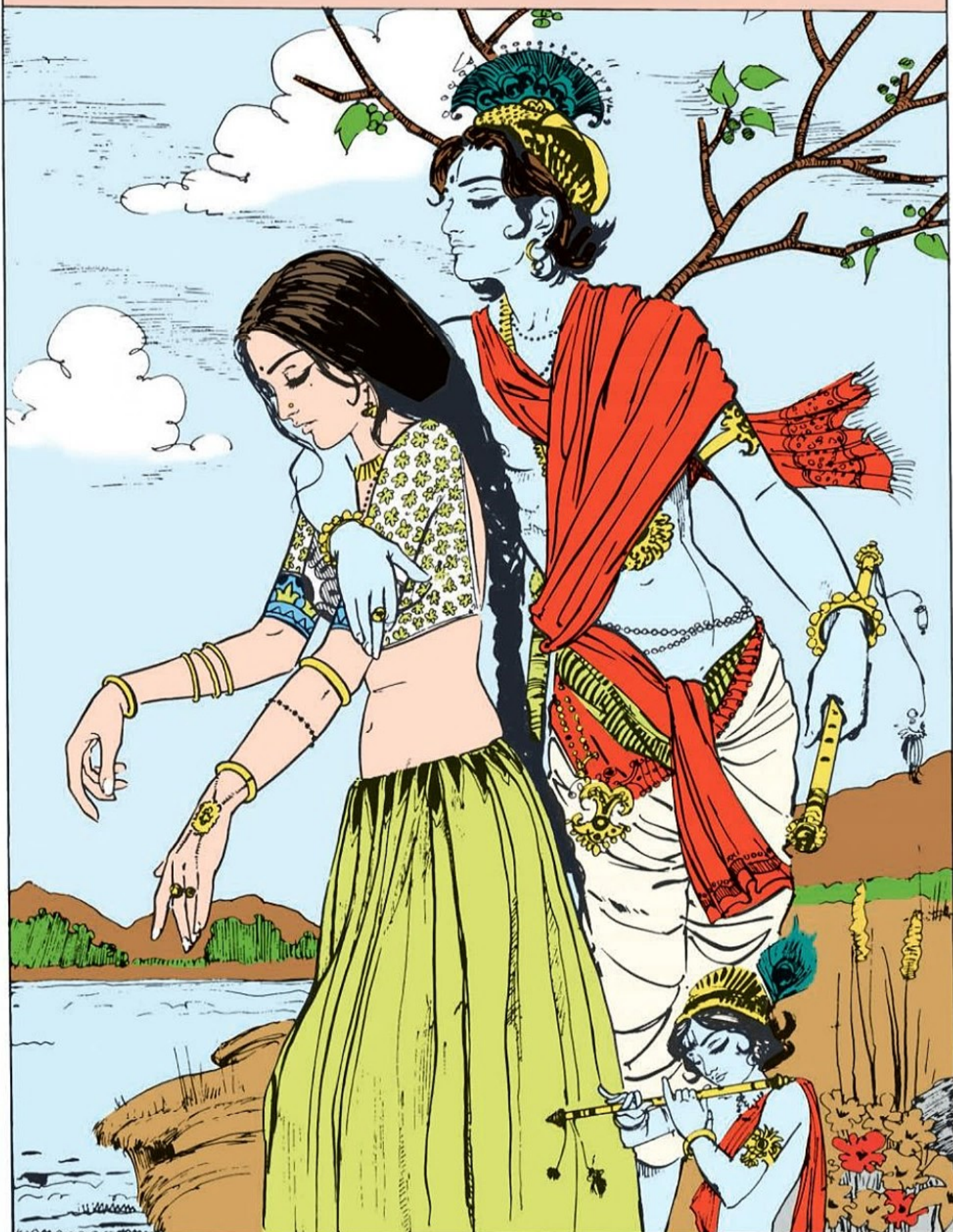
MIRA, THE TRUE HINDU WIFE, DID NOT PROTEST. SHE FONDLY TOOK LEAVE OF HER TEARFUL COMPANIONS...



... AND SLOWLY WENDED HER WAY TO THE RIVER, HUGGING THE IMAGE OF HER LORD CLOSE TO HER.



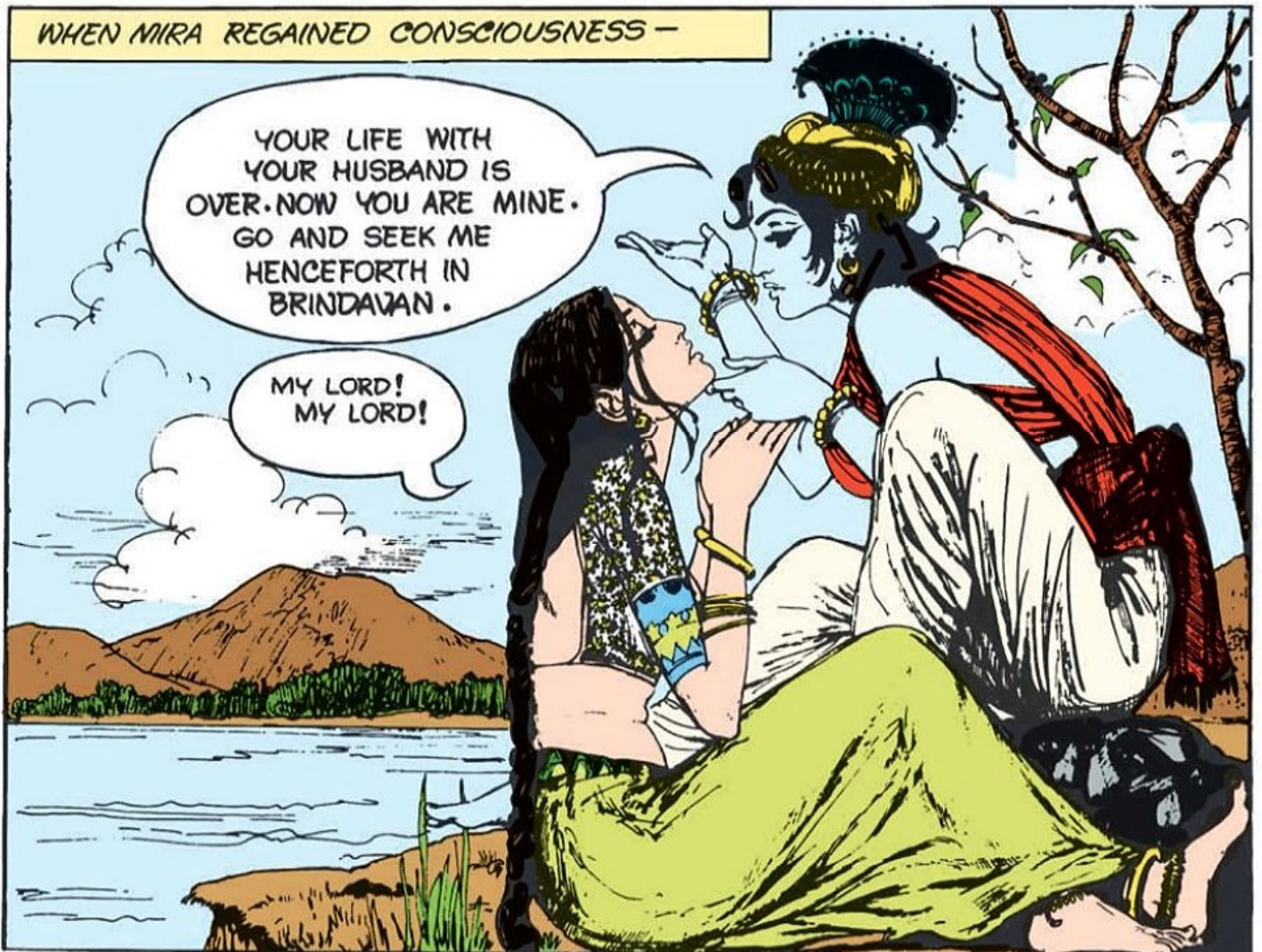
AS MIRA STOOD ON THE RIVER-BANK, THE TEMPLE BELLS CHIMED.
SHE WAS ABOUT TO JUMP, WHEN A HAND FROM BEHIND
GRASPED HER. SHE TURNED AROUND...



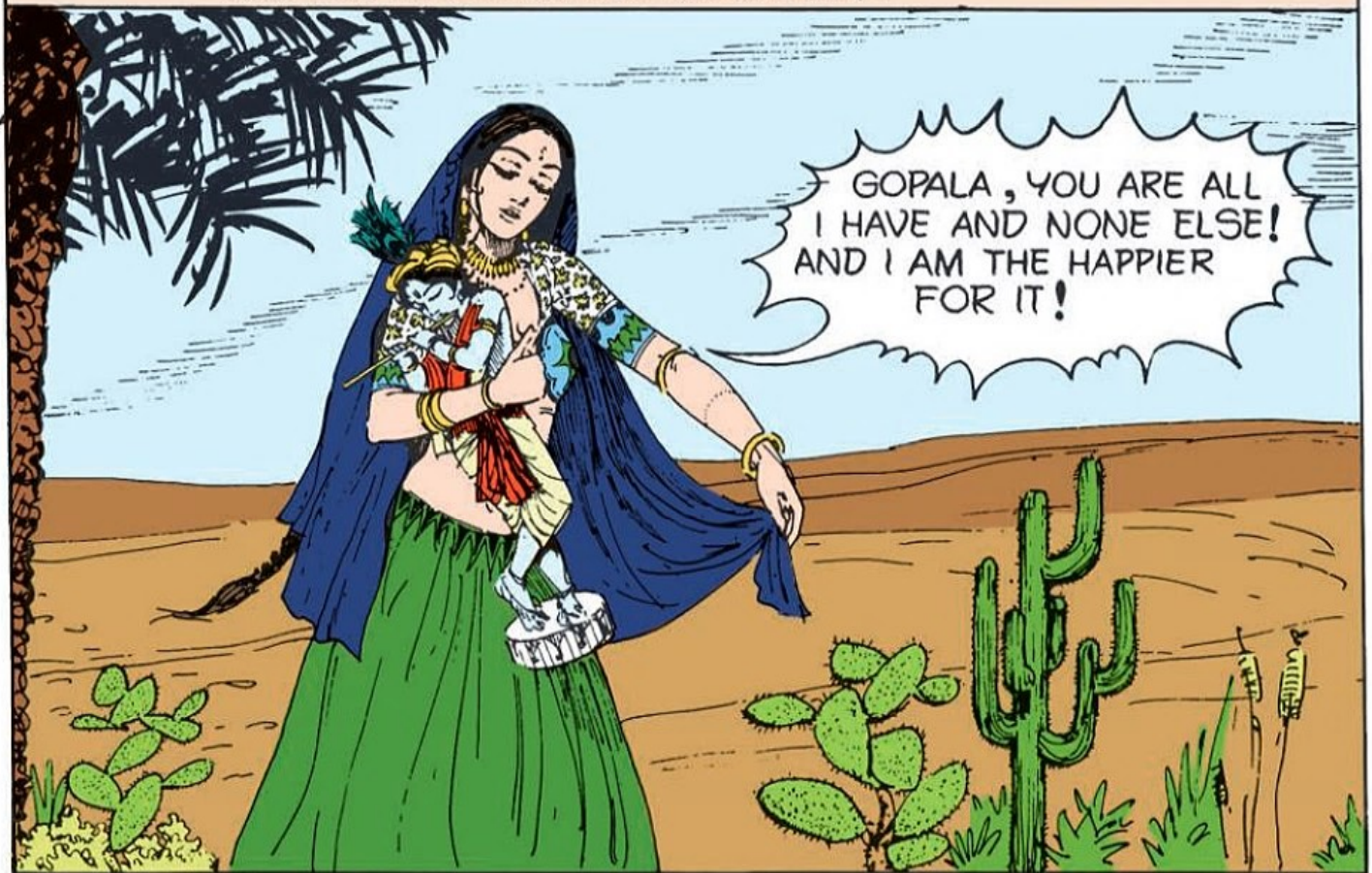
... AND WHAT SHOULD MEET HER EYES BUT THE HEAVENLY SMILE OF HER BELOVED LORD! SHE FAINTED.



WHEN MIRA REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS —



AFTER RECEIVING THE DIVINE COMMAND, MIRA SANG AND DANCED HER WAY TO BRINDAVAN, HARDLY AWARE OF ALL THAT SHE HAD TO SUFFER ON THE WAY.



AT LAST SHE REACHED HER DESTINATION— BRINDAVAN.



HARDLY HAD SHE ARRIVED WHEN DEVOTEES BEGAN TO FLOCK AROUND HER.



NEWS SPREAD THAT MIRA HAD COME.

MIRA HAS
COME!

HAVE YOU
HEARD HER SING
TO GOPALA?

IT SEEMED AS IF HER DEVOTEES HAD
HEARD OF HER AND WERE
WAITING FOR HER.

GOPALA HAS
SENT HER
AT LAST!

SHE IS
RADHA
REBORN!

ONCE MORE
THERE WILL BE
SINGING
AND DANC-
ING IN
BRINDAVAN!

PEOPLE CAME FROM FAR OFF PLACES TO HAVE
A GLIMPSE OF THIS UNINHIBITED DEVOTEE OF LORD KRISHNA.
ONE OF THEM WAS A TRAVELLER FROM CHITTOR!

MIRABAI ALIVE!!
I MUST TAKE THIS
NEWS TO RANA BHOURAJ!

WHEN HE RETURNED TO CHITTOR—



AFTER MIRA HAD GONE TO OBEY HIS COMMAND, BHOURAJ HAD REPENTED OF HIS HARSH SENTENCE.



DRESSED IN THE SAFFRON ROBES OF A SADHU, BHOURAJ TRAVELLED TO BRINDAVAN. HE APPROACHED MIRA AND HELD OUT HIS PALM —



SUDDENLY, BHOJRAJ THREW OFF HIS SAFFRON ROBES AND MIRA, RECOGNISING HER HUSBAND, FELL AT HIS FEET.

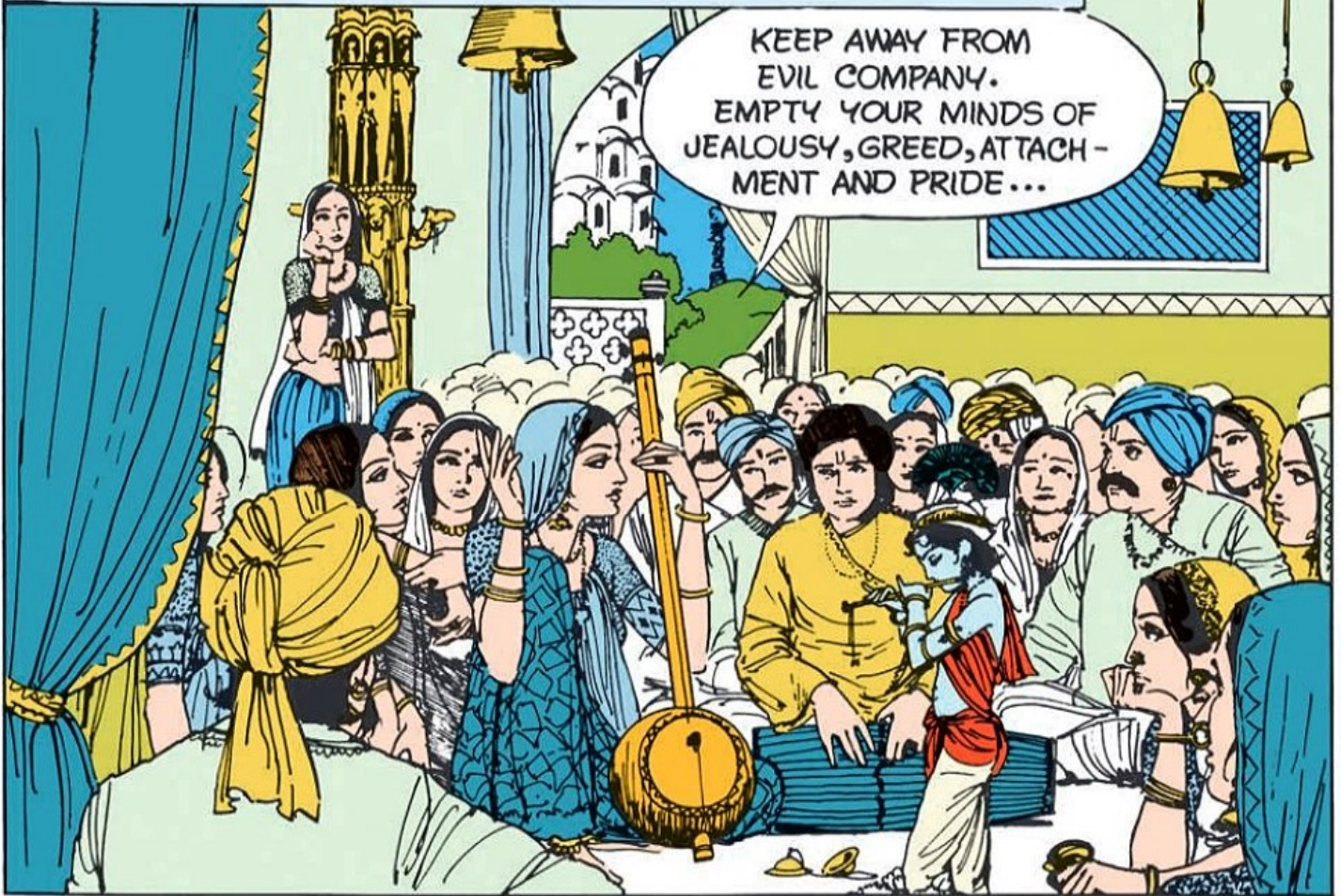


SO MIRA, LED BY HER HUSBAND AND FOLLOWED BY HER DEVOTEES, RETURNED TO CHITTOR.

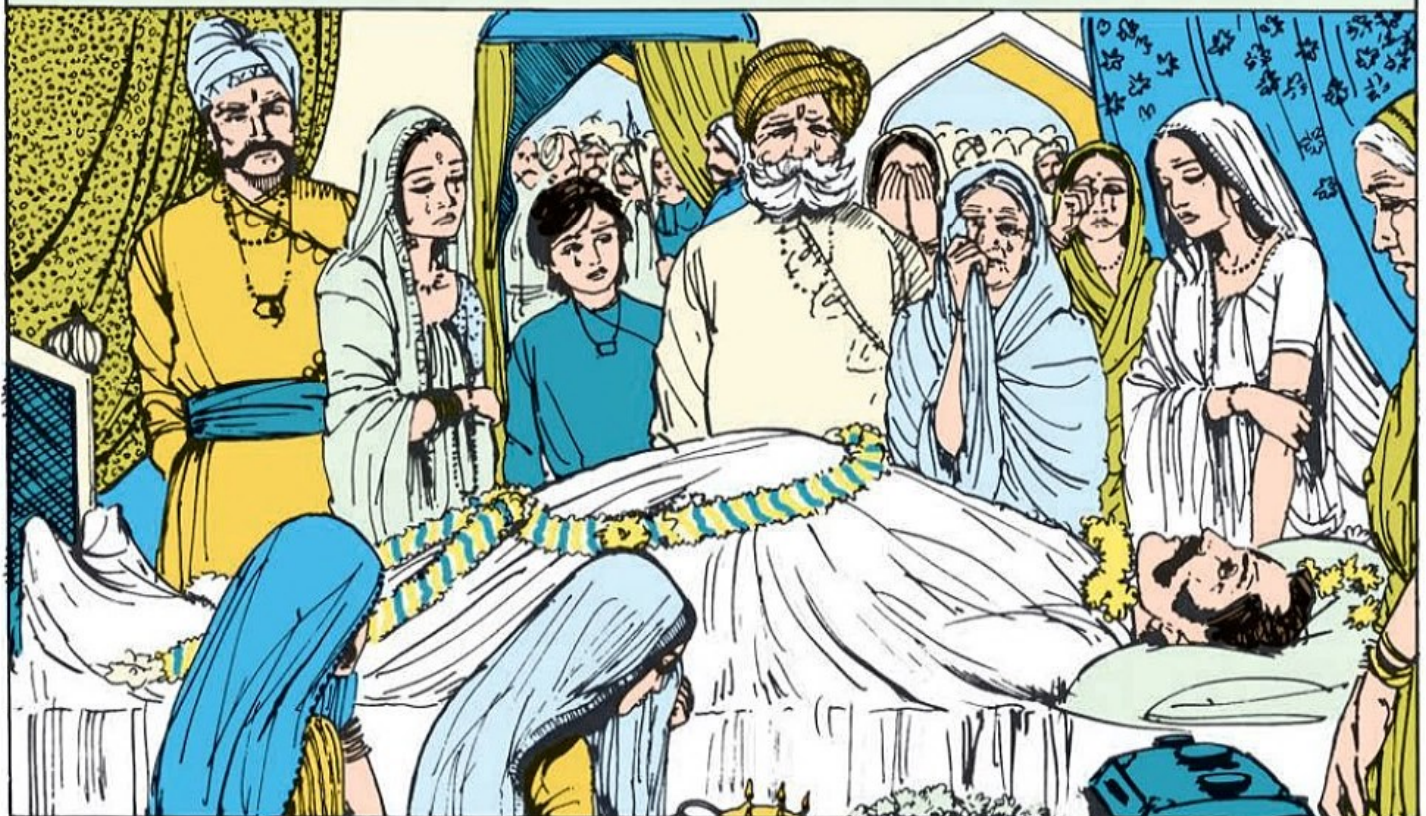


AT CHITTOR, FOR MANY YEARS, SHE CONTINUED HER WORSHIP OF HER LORD, WITH COMPLETE FREEDOM.

KEEP AWAY FROM
EVIL COMPANY.
EMPTY YOUR MINDS OF
JEALOUSY, GREED, ATTACH-
MENT AND PRIDE...



ALMOST TEN YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE MIRA HAD FIRST ARRIVED — AS BHOU-
RAU'S BRIDE — TO CHITTOR, WHEN ALAS! SHE WAS WIDOWED!



BHOURAU'S FATHER
SUMMONED MIRA.

PREPARE YOURSELF
FOR SATI! YOU MUST
JOIN YOUR HUSBAND
ON THE FUNERAL PYRE!

BUT MIRA REFUSED.

AS LONG AS THE
DIVINE LORD LIVES
IN MY HEART, I
WILL NOT DIE!

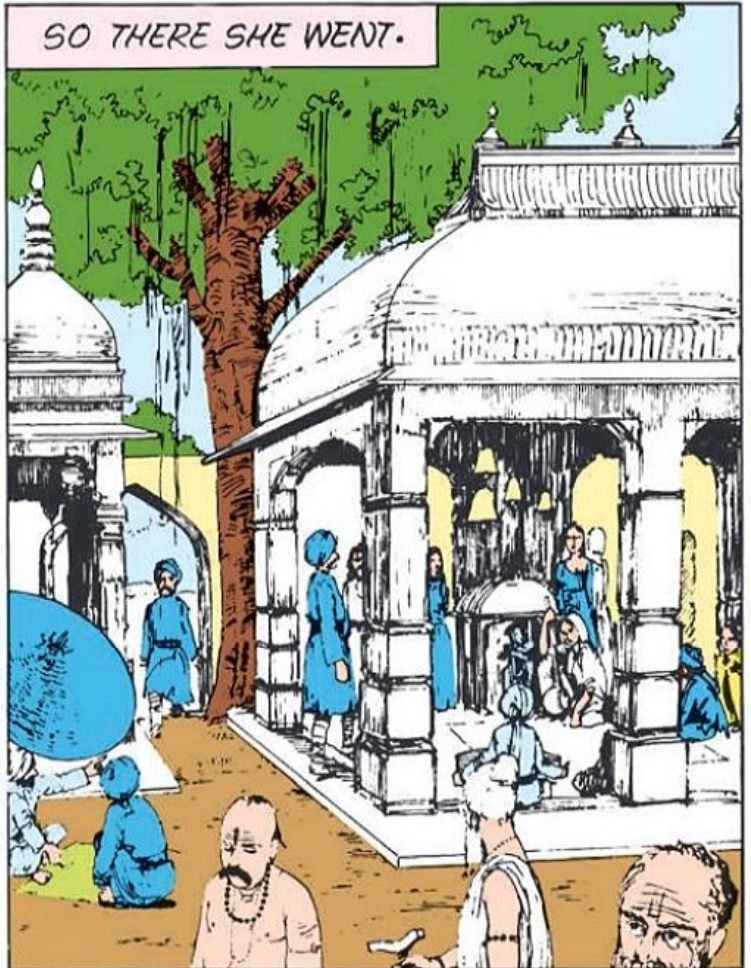
THOUGH THE WIDOWED MIRA WAS NOW MORALLY FREE TO DEVOTE HERSELF
COMPLETELY TO HER LORD, THE NEW RANA, BHOURAU'S BROTHER, GAVE HER
NO PEACE.

I COMMAND YOU HENCE-
FORTH NOT TO MIX WITH
HOLY MEN AND NOT TO
SING AND DANCE BEFORE
THE IMAGE OF KRISHNA
WITHIN THE WALLS OF
THIS
PALACE!

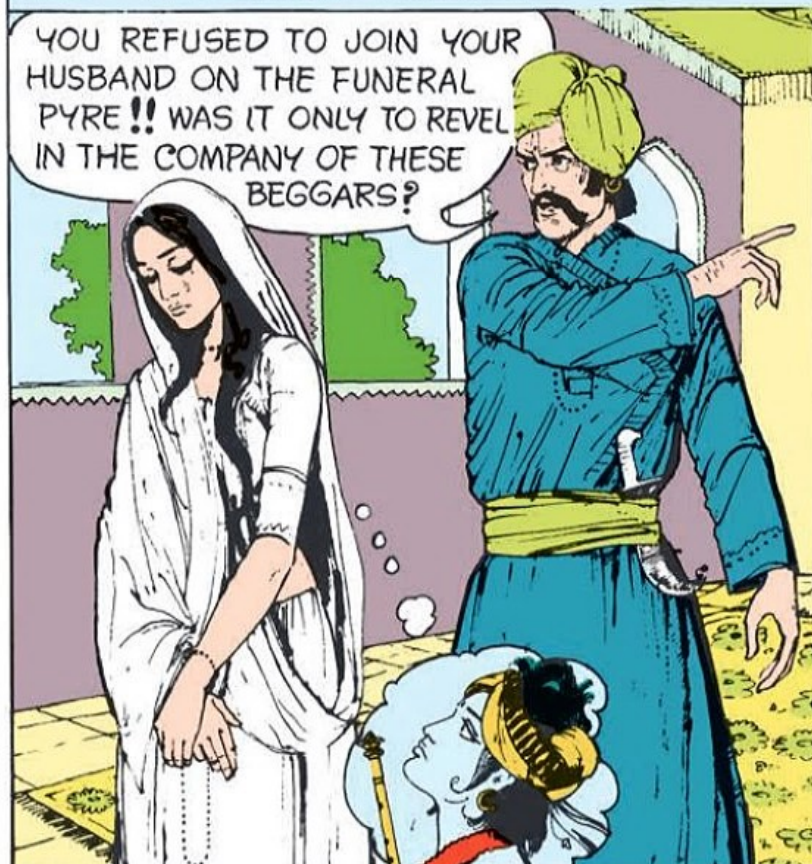
MIRA WAS RESTLESS AND UNHAPPY—



SO THERE SHE WENT.



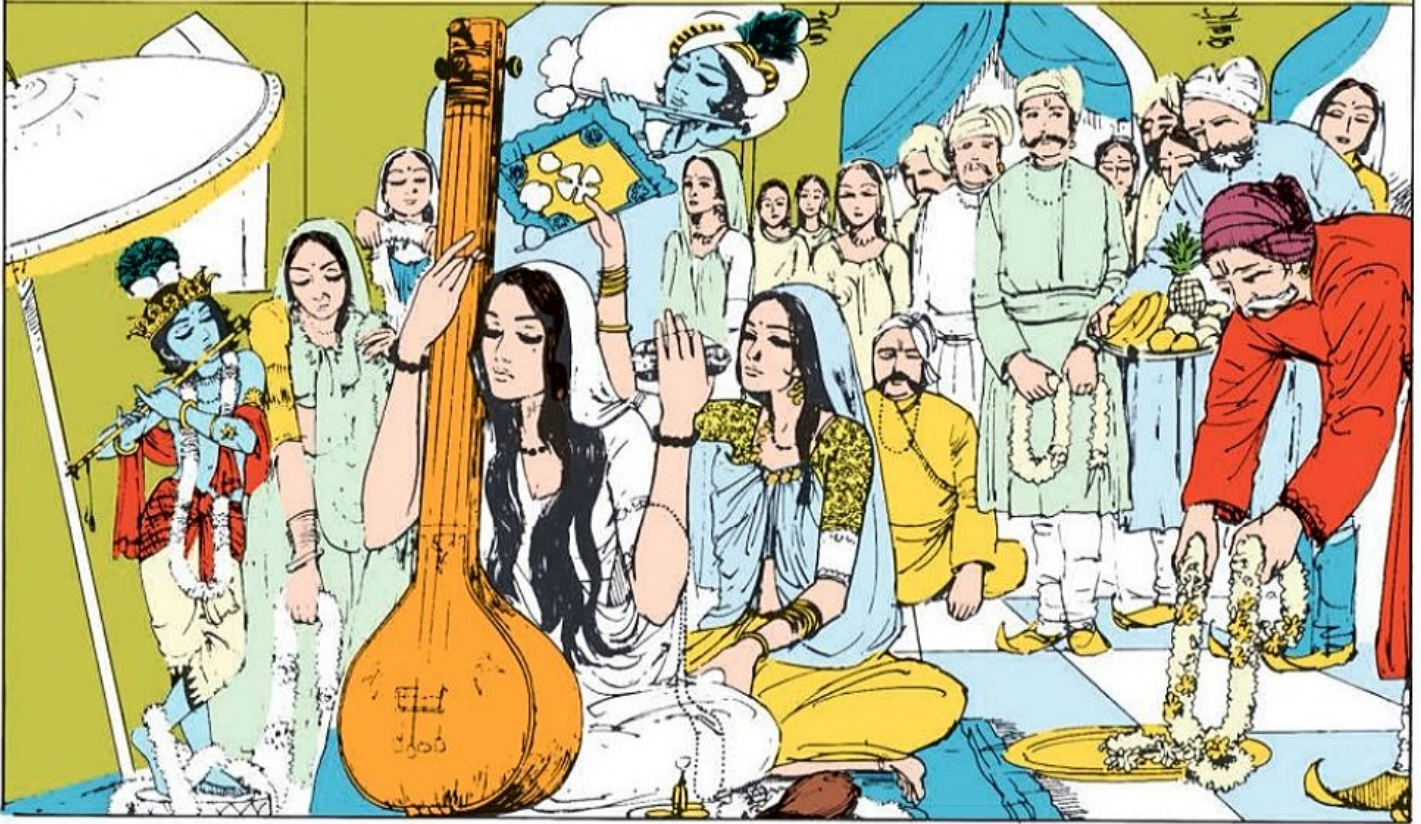
BUT NOW THE RANA RIDICULED HER FOR MINGLING SHAMELESSLY WITH THE SADHUS AND THE COMMON DEVOTEES.



MIRA IGNORED THESE TAUNTS AND CONTINUED SINGING AND DANCING IN THE NAME OF HER LORD.



THE PEOPLE OF CHITTOR BEGAN TO LOVE AND RESPECT THEIR SAINTLY PRINCESS EVEN MORE, AND NEWS ABOUT HER SPREAD ALL OVER INDIA.



SCHOLARS AND SAINTS OF HER TIME CAME FROM DISTANT PLACES TO PAY HOMAGE TO HER.



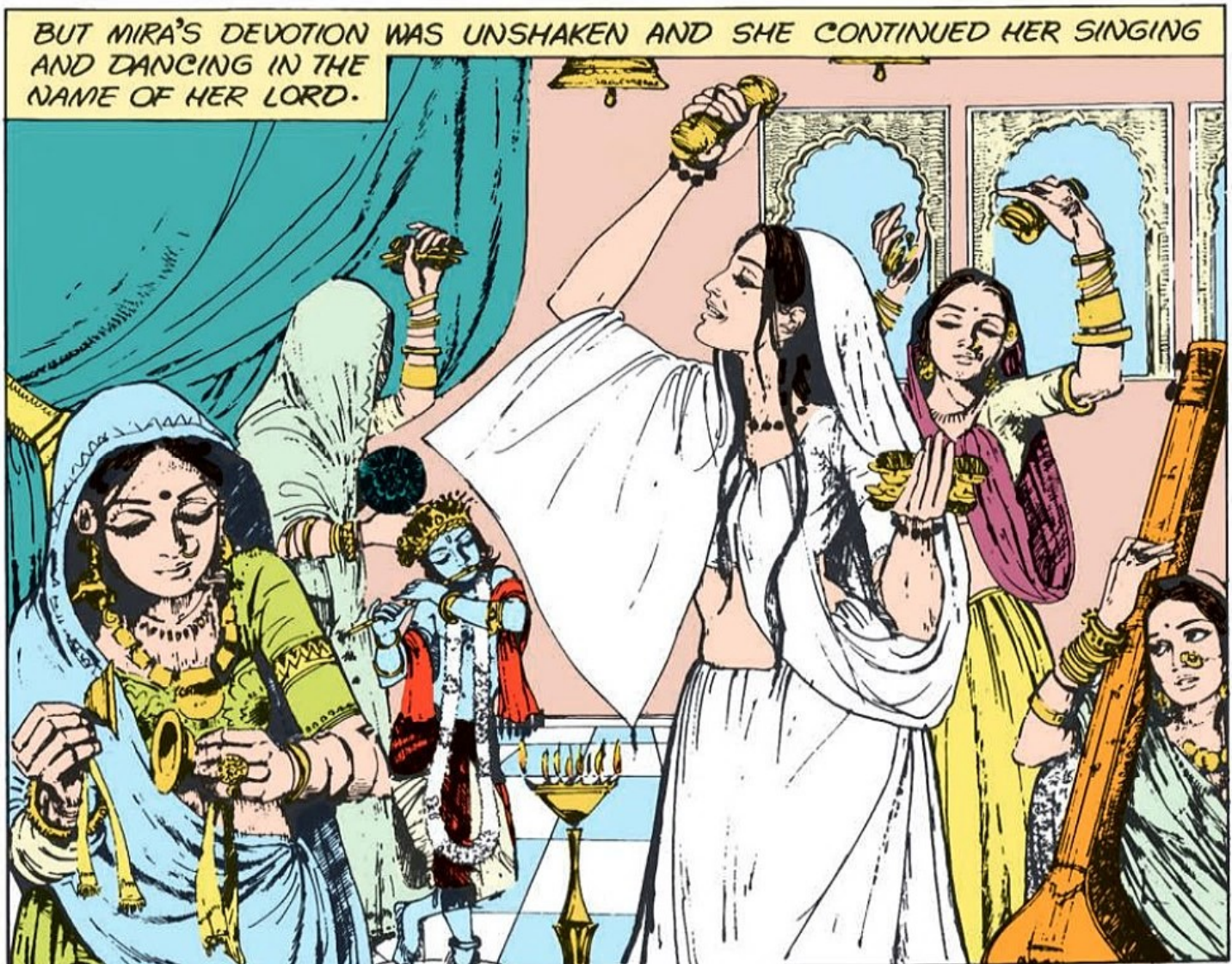
MEDITATE ON THE FEET OF THE LORD. FASTS, PILGRIMAGES AND LEARNING ARE OF NO USE. LOVE THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND HEART.

THE RANA WAS NOW BESIDE HIMSELF WITH RAGE.

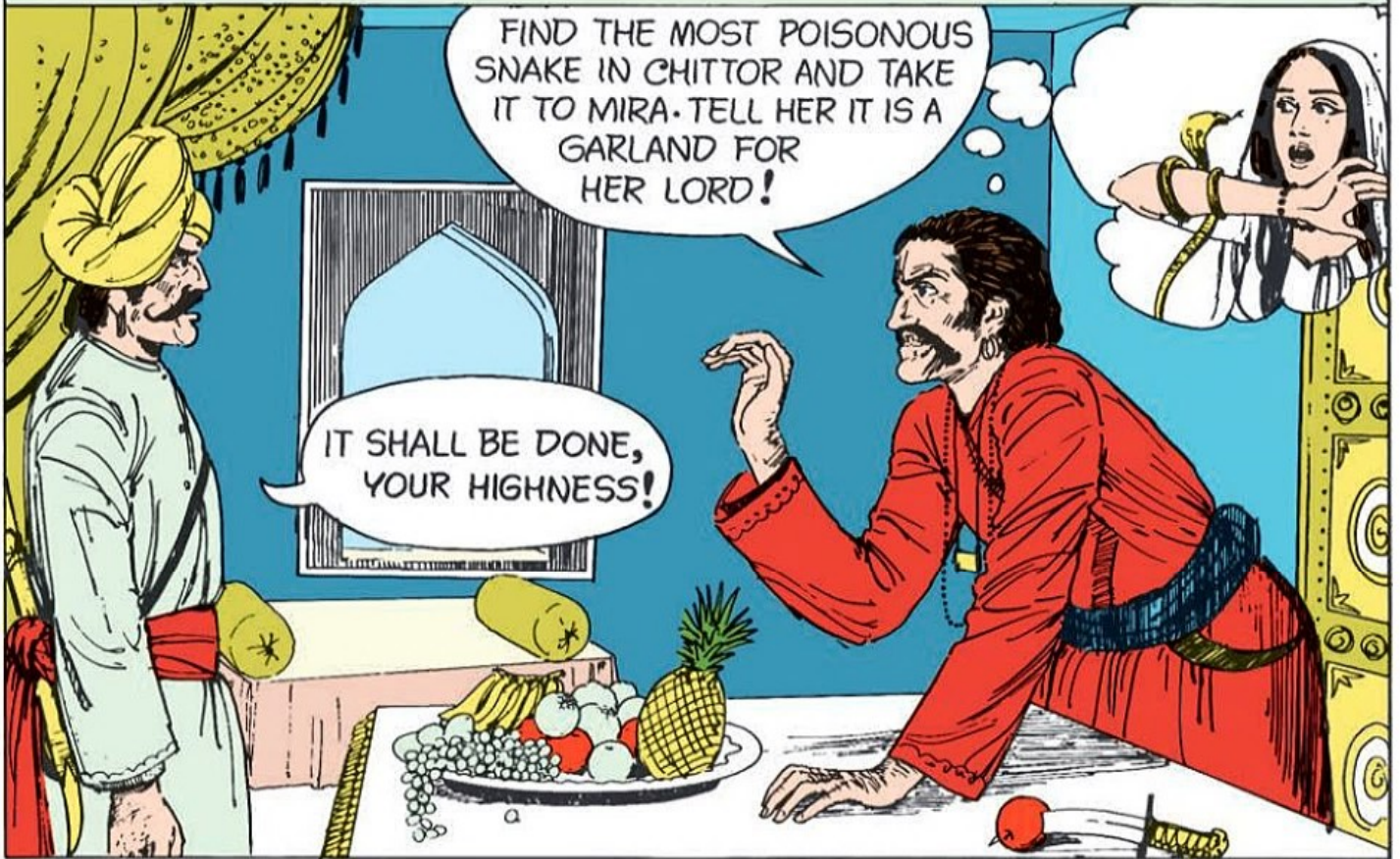
SOMEHOW WE MUST GET RID OF
THIS WICKED WOMAN
WHO CASTS HER SPELL OVER
ALL WHO COME
HER WAY!



BUT MIRA'S DEVOTION WAS UNSHAKEN AND SHE CONTINUED HER SINGING
AND DANCING IN THE
NAME OF HER LORD.



ONE DAY THE RANA HAD A BASKET, CONTAINING A POISONOUS SNAKE, SENT TO HER.



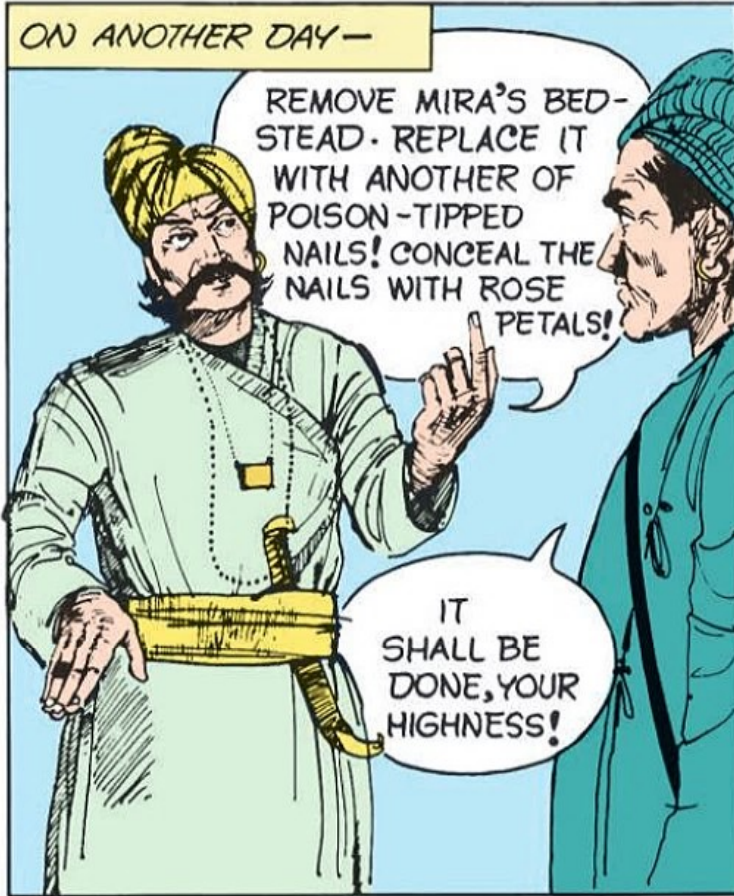
MIRA NEVER REFUSED ANYTHING THAT WAS GIVEN IN THE NAME OF HER LORD.



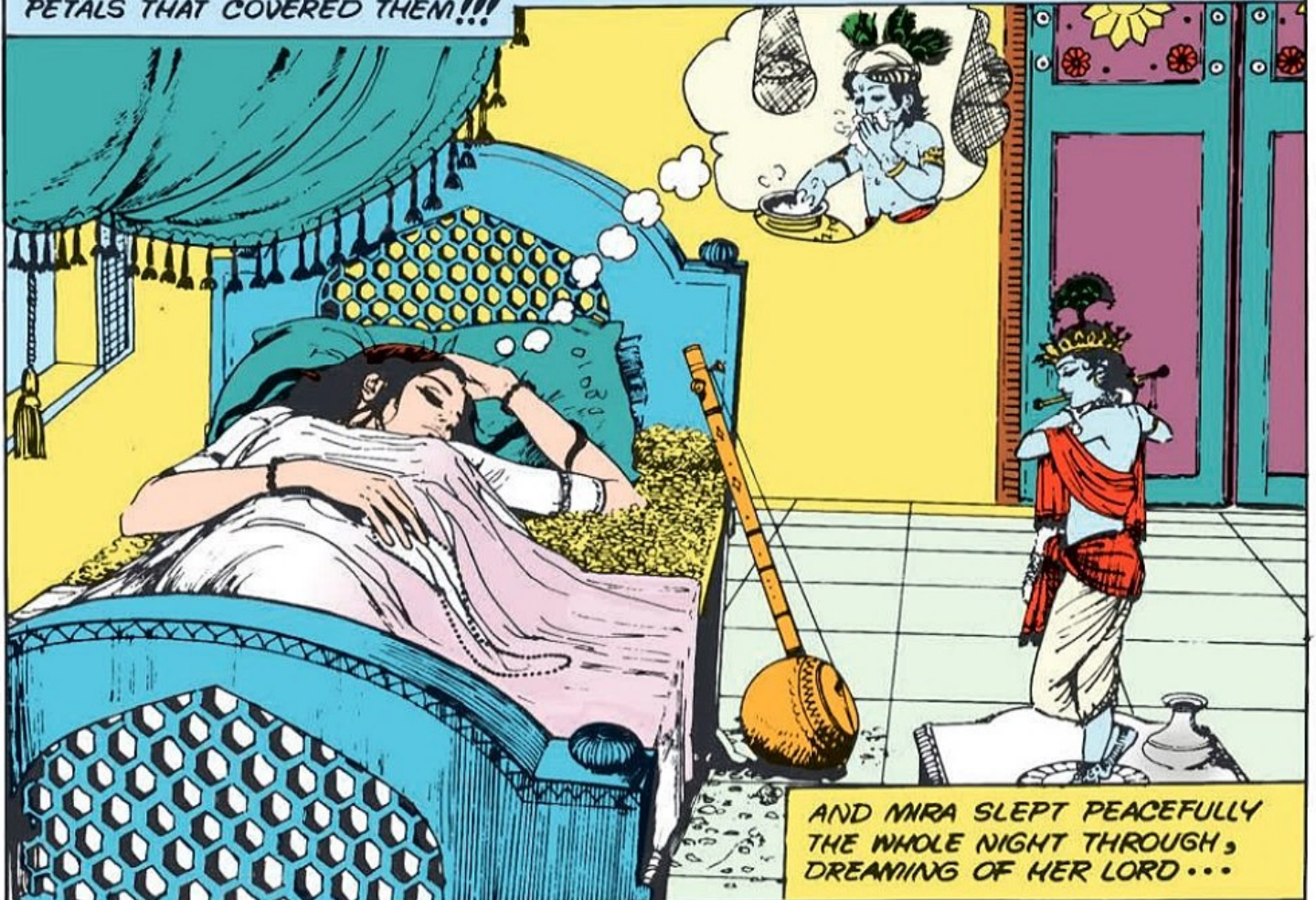
SHE GARLANDED HER LORD'S IMAGE AND THANKED THE ASTONISHED MESSENGER!



ON ANOTHER DAY—



MIRA, HARDLY CONSCIOUS OF ANY CHANGE IN HER SURROUNDINGS, LAY DOWN AS USUAL. MIRACULOUSLY, THE NAILS TURNED LIMP AND SOFT LIKE THE VERY ROSE PETALS THAT COVERED THEM!!!



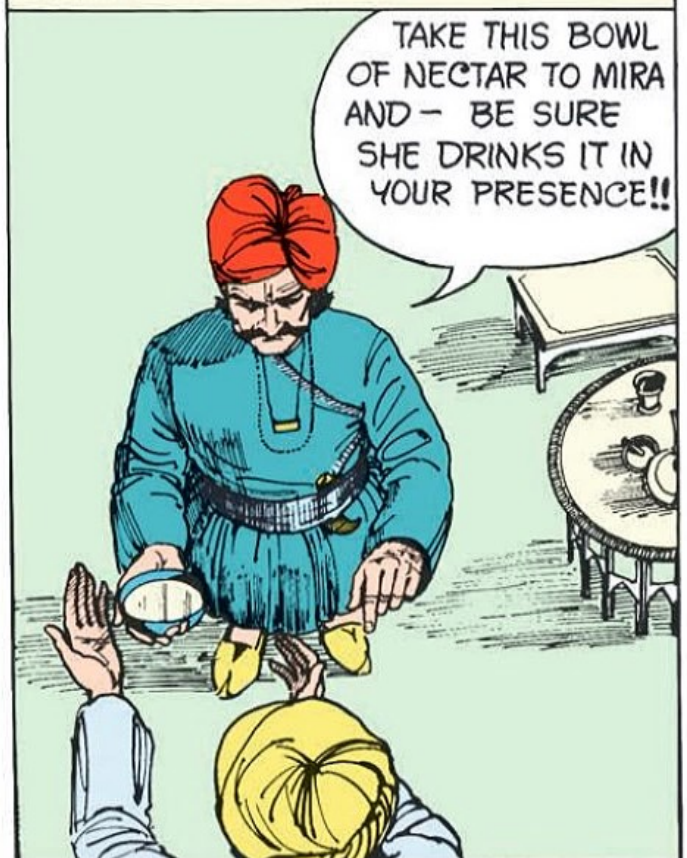
THE NEXT MORNING, THE RANA AND HIS EVIL COUNSELLORS WERE UNPLEASANTLY SURPRISED TO SEE MIRA, FRESH AS EVER, ENGAGED IN THE WORSHIP OF HER LORD!



THE RANA NOW WAS FURIOUS. HE MIXED POISON INTO A BOWL OF NECTAR WITH HIS OWN HANDS.



HE SENT FOR HIS MOST TRUSTED MAN.



THE MAN TOOK THE BOWL TO MIRA.

A BOWL OF NECTAR FROM THE RANA WHO REPENTS OF HIS HARSH TREATMENT OF MIRABAI.



MIRA, HARDLY CONSCIOUS OF WHAT SHE ATE OR DRANK, ACCEPTED THE NECTAR AND SWALLOWED IT MECHANICALLY.

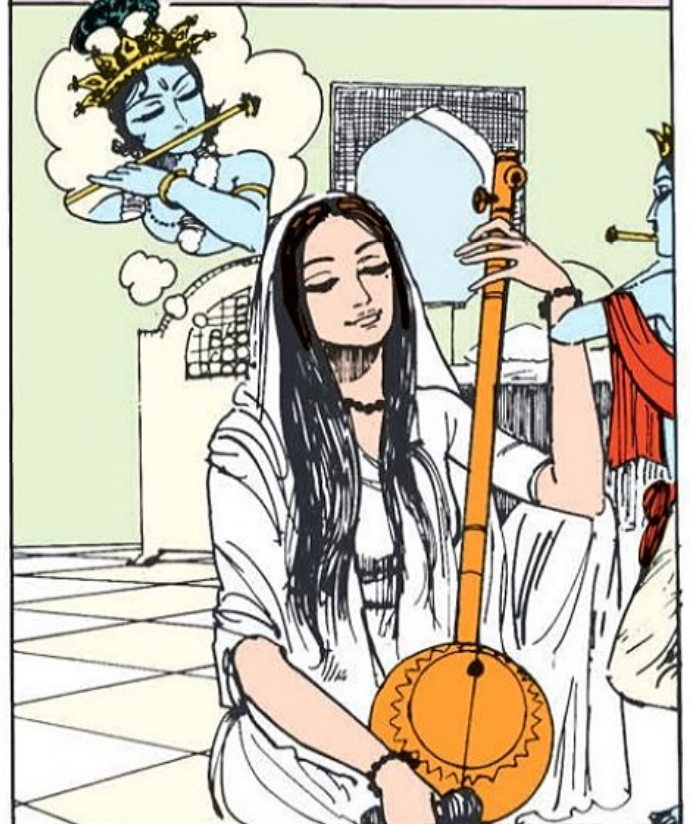


AND LO! THE POISON TURNED INTO NECTAR!!

MIRA IS UNAFFECTED!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES!



MIRA CONTINUED SITTING BEFORE HER LORD WITH A SMILE ON HER LIPS.



THE FRUSTRATED RANA FINALLY DECIDED TO HARASS MIRA INTO GIVING UP.

MIRA MUST NOT ENTER THE PUBLIC TEMPLE. HER IMMOD-ESTY BRINGS SHAME UPON THE FAIR NAME OF OUR ROYAL FAMILY!

IT WILL BE SEEN TO, YOUR HIGHNESS!

MIRA WAS TIRED OF THESE CEASELESS INTERRUPTIONS.

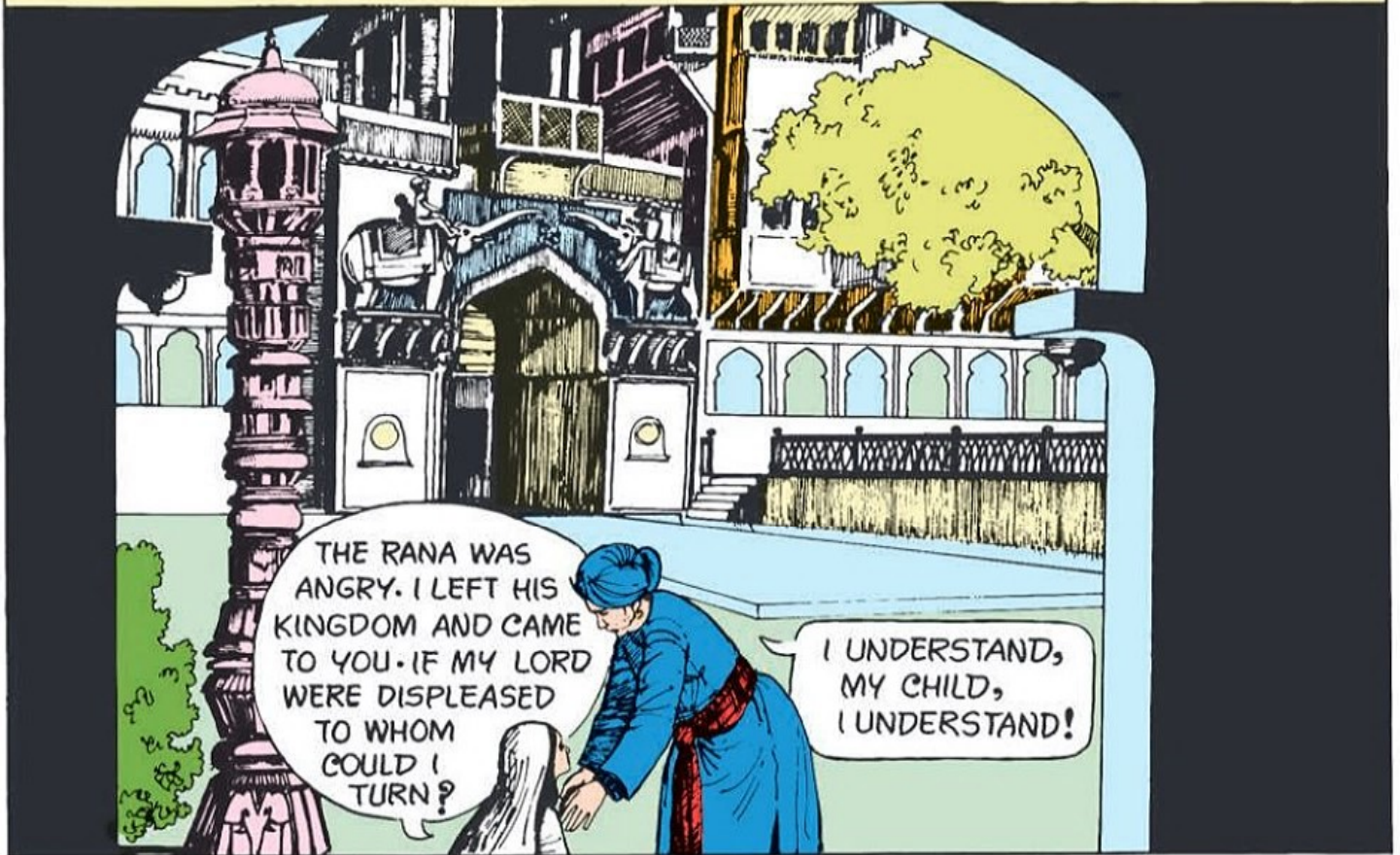
O GOPALA, WILL THEY NEVER LEAVE ME IN PEACE TO ADORE YOU? WHAT SHOULD I DO?

SHE WROTE TO TULSIDAS, A SAINT OF HER TIMES, AND ASKED HIM WHAT SHE SHOULD DO.

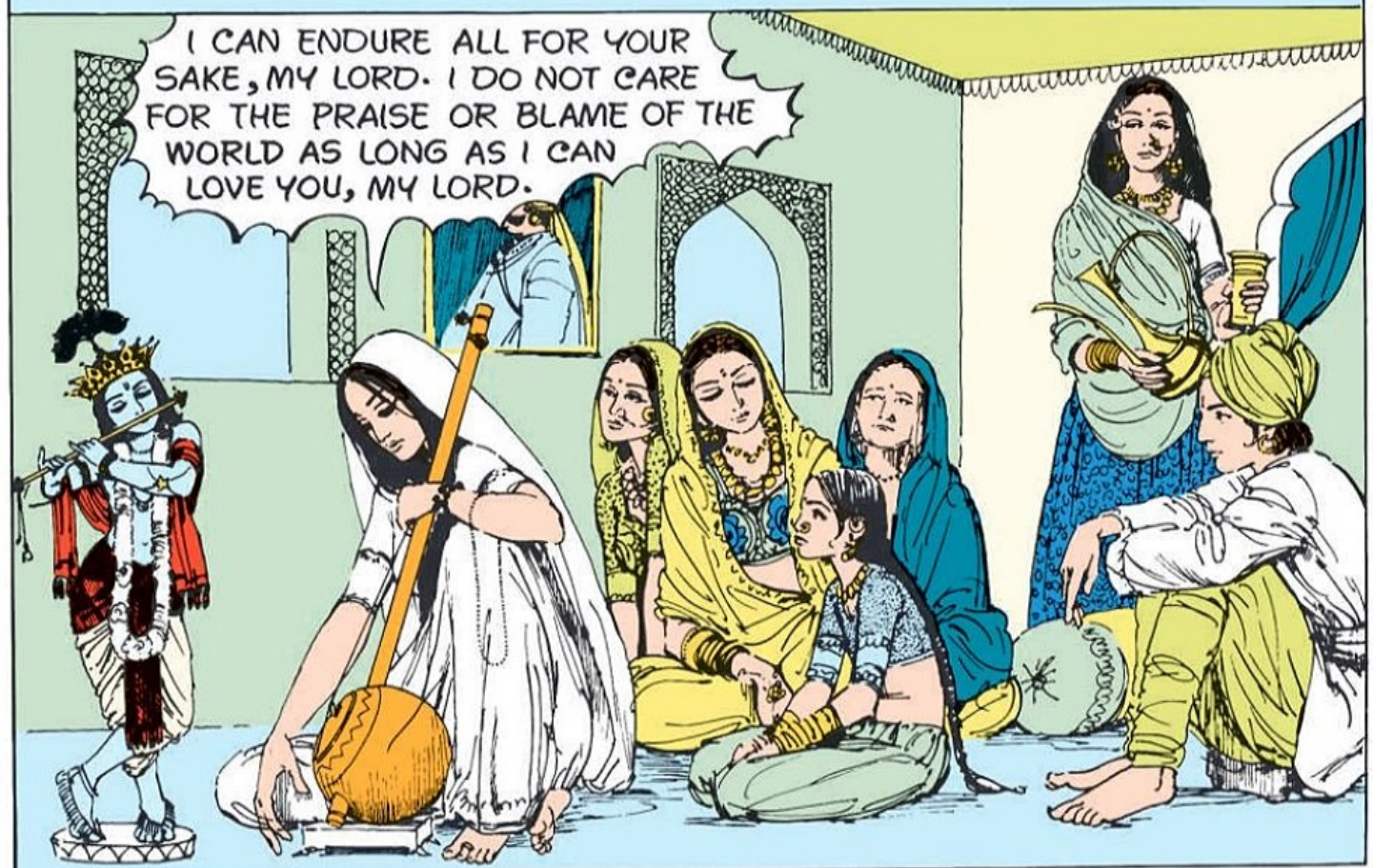
I WILL ACT ON THE SAINT'S ADVICE. HE IS WISE AND LOVES MY LORD AS I DO.

TULSIDAS ADVISES ME TO SHUN THOSE WHO COME IN THE WAY OF MY WORSHIP EVEN THOUGH THEY BE MY CLOSEST RELATIVES

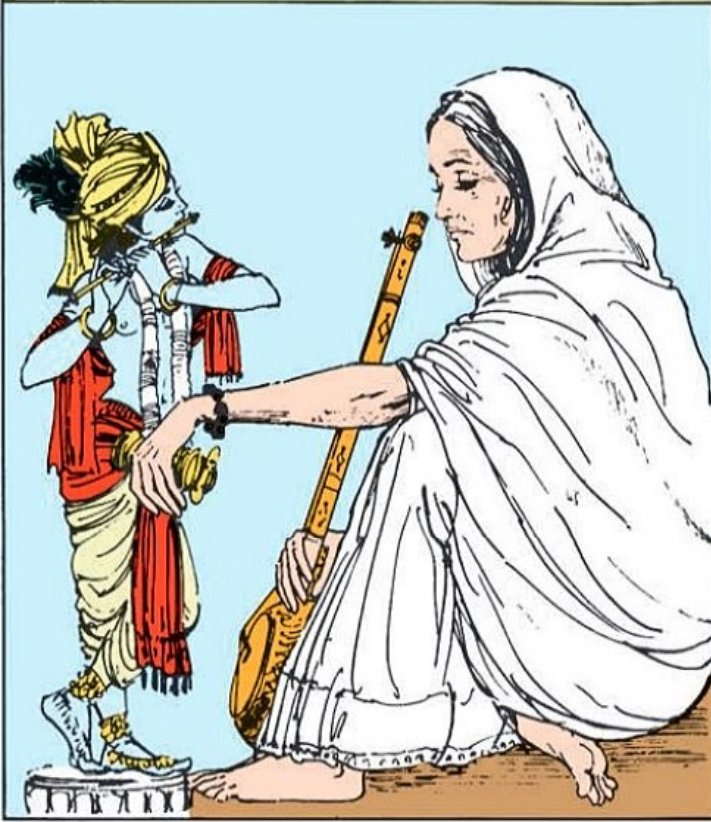
MIRA TOOK THE HINT AND LEFT CHITTOR FOR MERTA, HER UNCLE'S KINGDOM. THERE SHE WAS LOVINGLY WELCOMED.



SHE WAS GIVEN FULL FREEDOM TO WORSHIP IN PEACE.



AND SO SHE PASSED A FEW MORE YEARS IMMERSED IN HER LORD.



MIRA WAS GROWING OLD. SHE KNEW THAT HER END WAS NEAR.

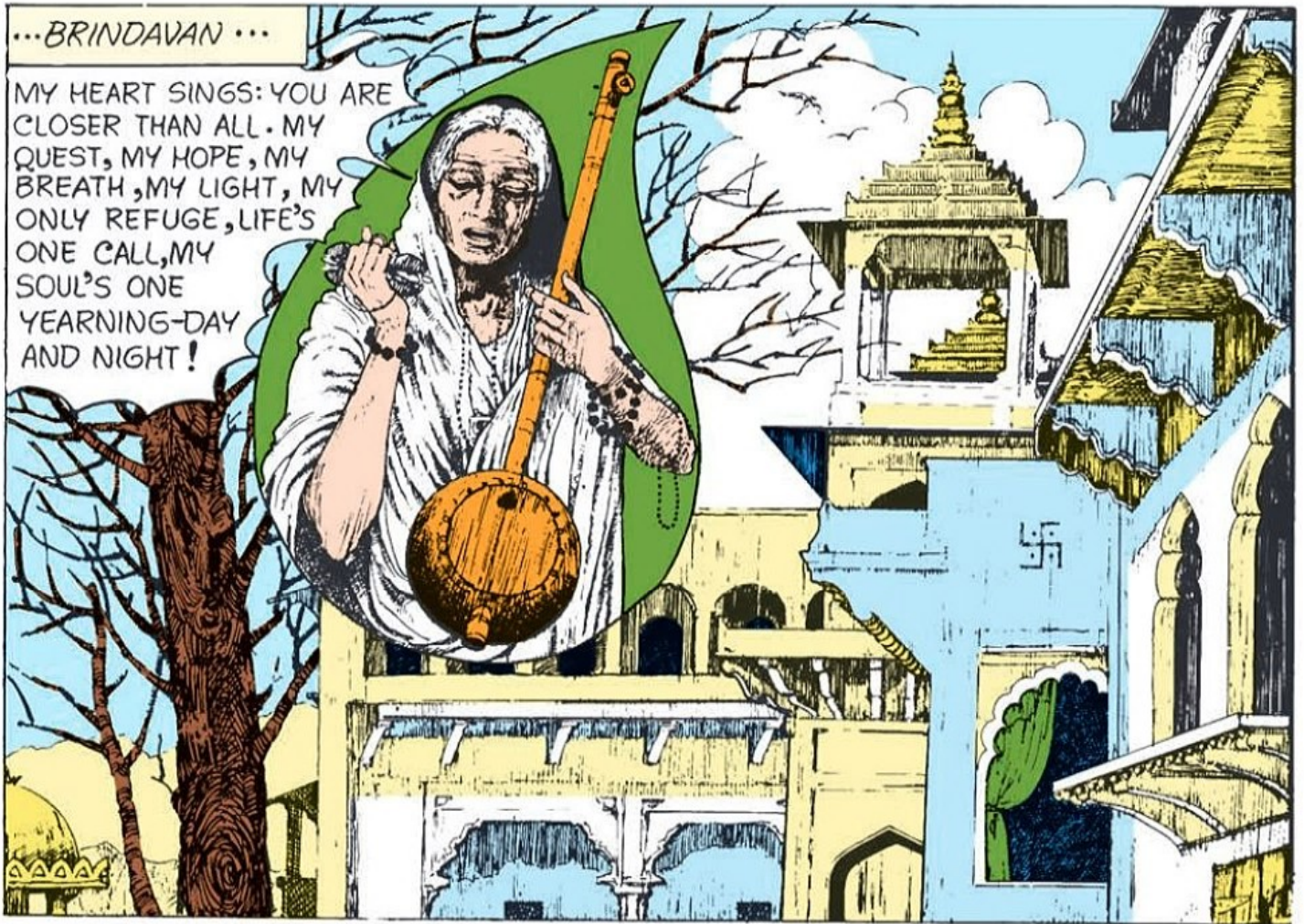


SO SHE SET OUT ON A PILGRIMAGE TO MATHURA...



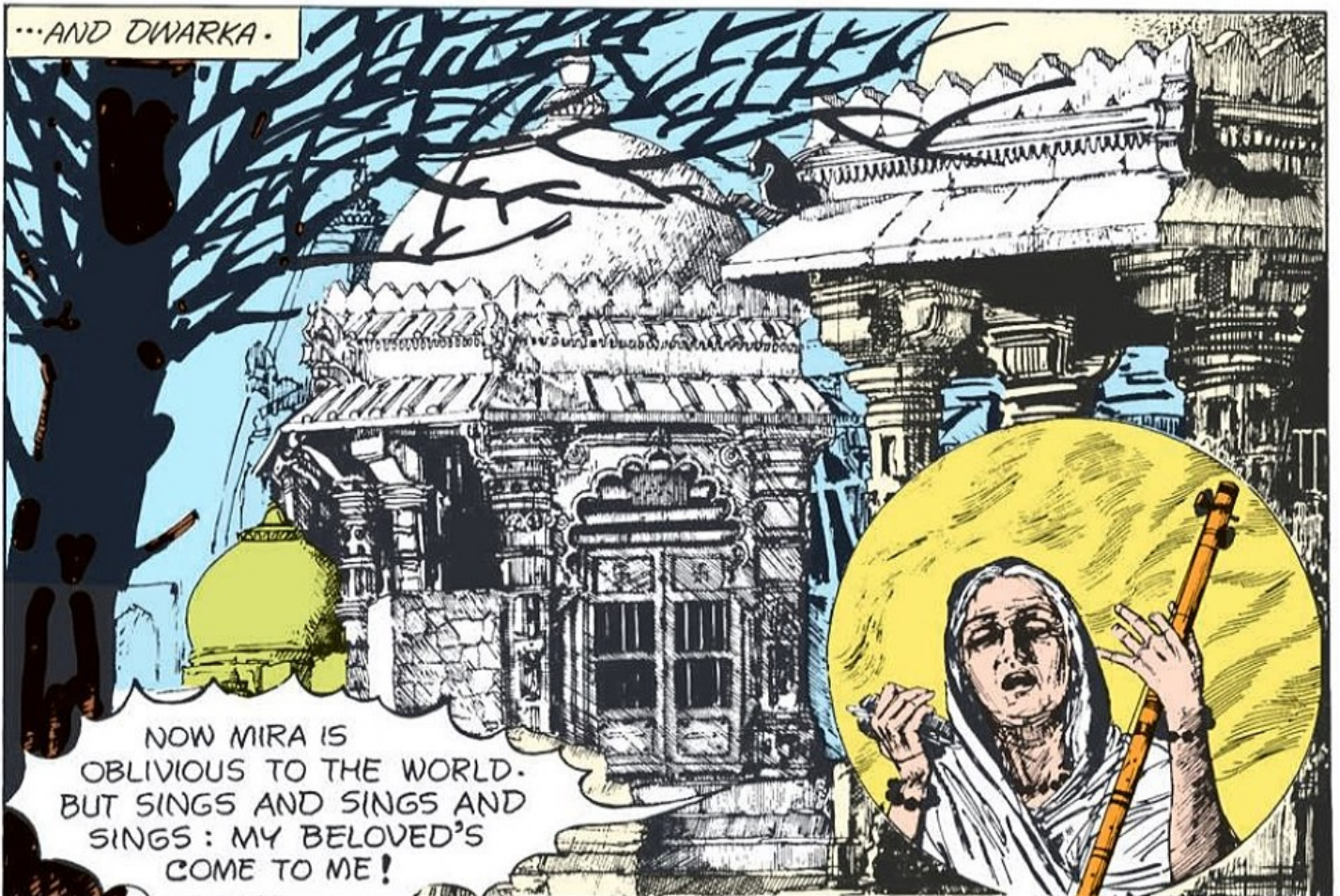
...BRINDAVAN ...

MY HEART SINGS: YOU ARE
CLOSER THAN ALL. MY
QUEST, MY HOPE, MY
BREATH, MY LIGHT, MY
ONLY REFUGE, LIFE'S
ONE CALL, MY
SOUL'S ONE
YEARNING-DAY
AND NIGHT !



...AND DWARKA .

NOW MIRA IS
OBLIVIOUS TO THE WORLD.
BUT SINGS AND SINGS AND
SINGS : MY BELOVED'S
COME TO ME !



SHE STAYED ON AT DWARKA BECAUSE THE CALL OF HER LORD HAD BECOME LOUDER AND MORE INSISTENT.

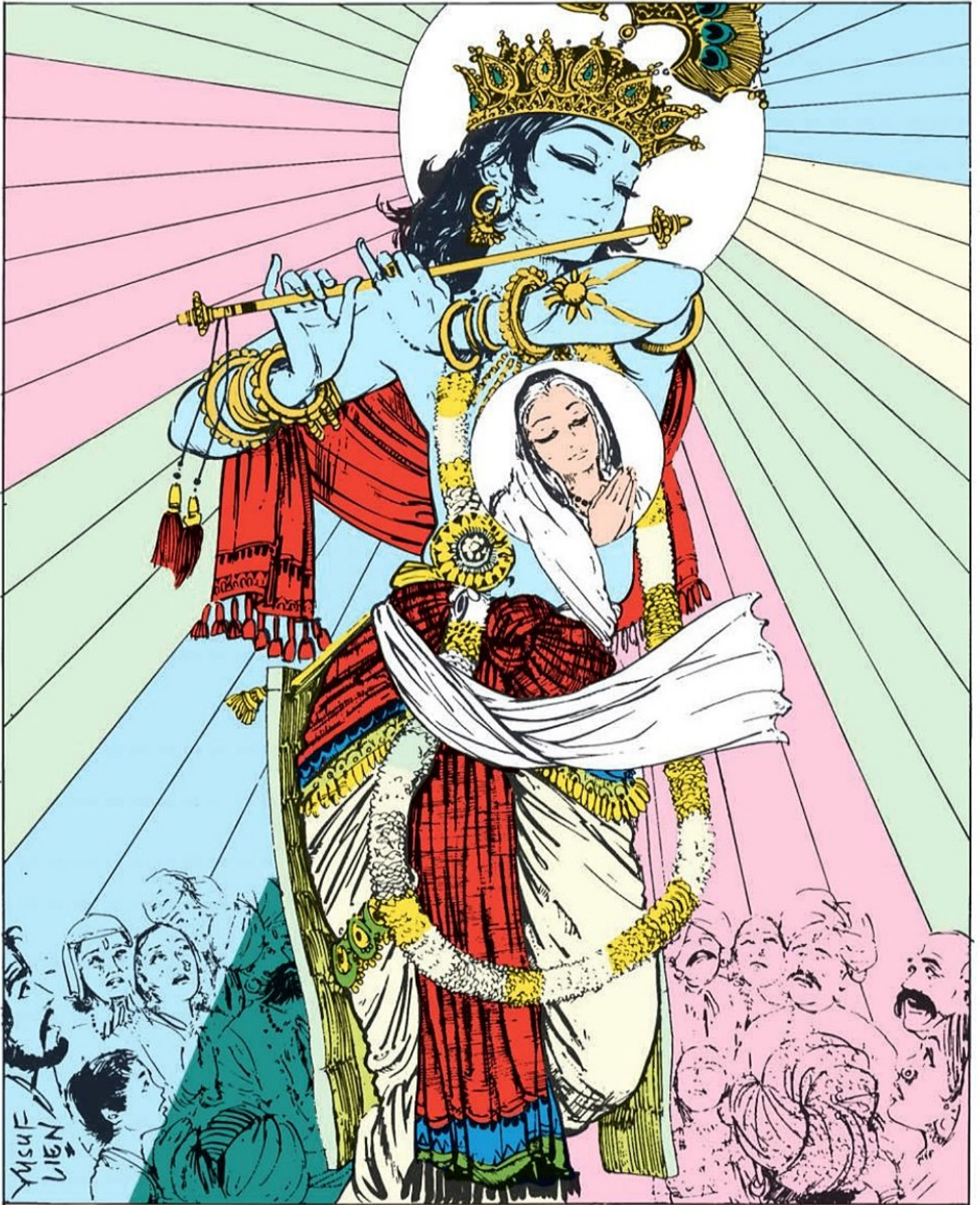
IT IS FOR YOU TO ORDAIN NOW, MY DESTINY— ONLY YOU KNOW HOW TO MAKE ME YOUR OWN.



ONE DAY IN THE MIDDLE OF A PRAYER MEETING THE CALL CAME SO LOUD AND DEAFENING THAT MIRA, WHILE DANCING FELL INTO A TRANCE AND FAINTED ON HER LORD.



I HAVE SURRENDERED MYSELF TO YOU. TILL MY LAST BREATH I'LL STAND AT YOUR DOOR, ACCEPTING ALL, LORD— LIFE OR DEATH.



AND MIRA AT LAST BECAME ONE WITH THE LORD SHE HAD
WORSHIPPED AND YEARNED FOR, EVER SINCE SHE HAD TAKEN
HIM FOR HER BRIDEGROOM, AT THE TENDER AGE OF FIVE !!

WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

Abhimanyu
Agastya
Andhaka
Aniruddha
Aruni And Uttanka
Ashwini Kumars
Ayyappan
Bahubali
Bhanumati
Bheema And Hanuman
Bheeshma
Chandrahasta
Dasharatha
Dhruva And Ashtavakra
Draupadi
Drona
Elephanta
Gandhari
Ganesha
Ganesha And The Moon
Ganga
Garuda
Ghatotkacha
Hanuman
Hanuman To The Rescue
Harischandra
Heroes Of Hampi
Indra And Shachi
Indra And Shibi
Indra And Vritra
Jagannatha Of Puri
Jayadratha
Kacha And Devayani
Karna
Karttikeya
Konark
Krishna
Krishna And Jarasandha
Krishna And Narakasura
Krishna And Rukmini
Krishna And Shishupala
Krishna And The False
Vaasudeva
Kubera
Kumbhakarna
Mahabharata
Mahiravana
Nachiketa
Nahusha
Nala Damayanti
Pareekshit
Parashurama
Prabhavati
Pradyumna
Purhlad
Purushottam Dev And
Padmavati
Rama
Ravana Humbled
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The King In
A Parrot's Body
The Lord Of Lanka
The Pandava Princes
The Pandavas In Hiding
The Parijata Tree
The Sons Of Rama
The Syamantaka Gem
Tirupati
Tripura
Uloopi
Vaishno Devi
Vali
Vishwamitra
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social reformers and
nation builders*

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Albert Einstein
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Babasaheb Ambedkar
Basaveshwara
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Chanakya
Chokha Mela
Dayananda
Deshbandhu
Chittaranjan Das
Ekmath
Fa Hien
Ghanshyamdas Birla
Guru Arjan
Guru Gobind Singh
Guru Har Gobind
Guru Nanak
Guru Tegh Bahadur
Hiuen Tsang
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Megasthenes
Mirabai
Mother Teresa
Narayan Guru
Rabindranath Tagore
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Ramana Maharshi
Ramanuja
Salim Ali
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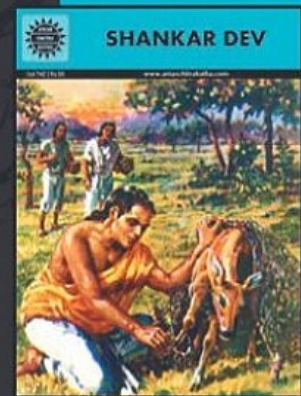
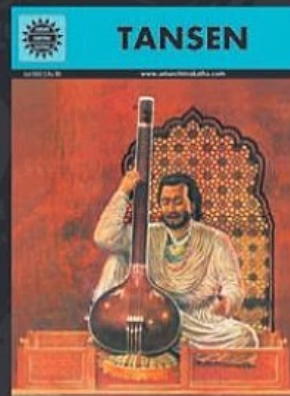
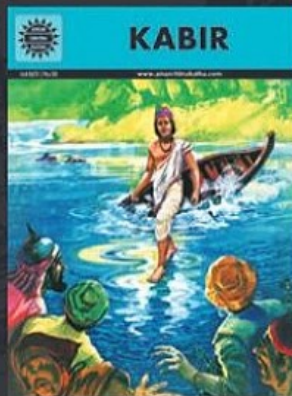
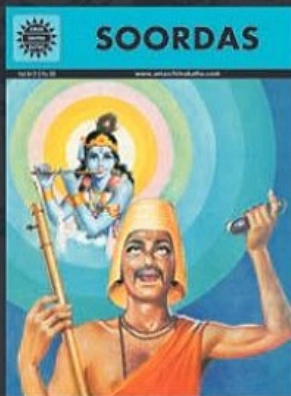


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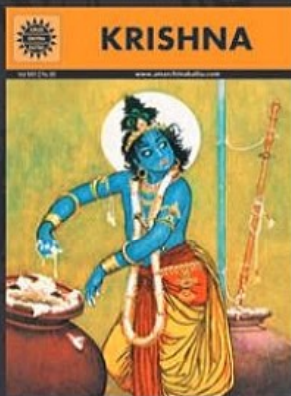
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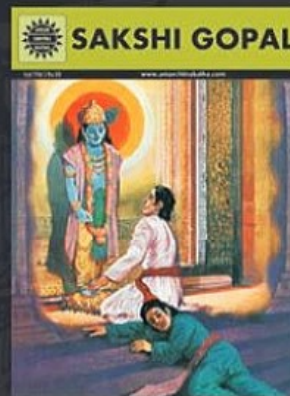
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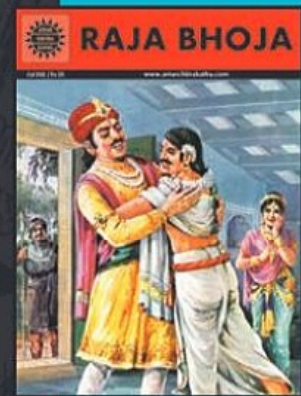
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